

FACING FENTANYL

Presented by
Facing Fentanyl

Prevention
Education



If a Child Finds or Takes an Unknown Pill

A quick guide for parents, caregivers, and teachers of children 10 and under

Unknown pills, powders, patches, baggies, or substances can be dangerous. Some may contain illicit fentanyl, even if they look harmless or like candy. Quick action and calm follow-up can help protect a child.



Why this matters

Poison-center and research data show a sharp rise in pediatric fentanyl exposures. A 2025 study reported 3,009 nonfatal pediatric fentanyl exposures from 2015–2023, and 41% involved children ages 0–12.



Get help right away

- Call 911 right away if a child may have swallowed, tasted, or handled an unknown substance.
- Give naloxone if available.
- Call Poison Control: **1-800-222-1222**.

Emergency signs to watch for



Extreme sleepiness



Limp body



Slow, noisy, or stopped breathing



Blue, gray, or pale lips



Tiny pupils



Vomiting, confusion, or not waking up



After medical care, ask the doctor

- How long should my child be observed?
- Could symptoms return after naloxone?
- What sleep, breathing, or behavior changes should I watch for?
- Do we need follow-up or toxicology guidance?
- Should we keep naloxone at home, school, or with caregivers?



Watch for concerns afterward

- Unusual sleepiness
- Breathing changes
- New anxiety, clinginess, or nightmares
- Confusion or unusual behavior
- Asking about or looking for the substance again
- Anything that feels “not like my child”



Important reminder



One accidental exposure does not mean a child is addicted. But fentanyl is a powerful opioid, and any exposure should be taken seriously and discussed with a pediatrician.

Simple words for kids



“If you find something, don’t touch it. Get a safe adult.”



“I only take medicine from a safe adult.”



“If I am not sure, I stop and ask.”

Small, calm conversations
and quick action can save lives.

FacingFentanylNow.org