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**Illinois Poison Center Launches Story Time Program with Libraries Statewide**  
*Parents encouraged to participate in National Poison Prevention Week activity*

(Chicago) – Children's librarians across the state of Illinois will be teaching children and their parents about poison prevention this March. Through a grant from the National Libraries of Medicine, the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) is partnering with public libraries to celebrate this year's **National Poison Prevention Week** (March 19-25, 2006).

Each year, more than two million poisoning exposures are called into regional poison centers across America – the majority of them affecting children under the age of 6. The Illinois Poison Center plays a critical role in helping treat the victims of these accidental poisonings and preventing future incidents through education efforts like the story time outreach program.

"Young children and their parents frequently visit public libraries, providing the Illinois Poison Center an opportunity to spread the poison prevention message to a captive audience," said Vickie Dance, statewide outreach and education coordinator. "By incorporating poison safety into existing library programming, we plan to increase awareness of this serious public health issue."

To illustrate the importance of poison prevention, the IPC developed a tool kit centered around story time. This approach weaves poison safety lessons into already established programming at libraries. The kit includes a story guide based on the book Five Little Monkeys with Nothing to Do by Eileen Christelow, educational materials, craft ideas and other recommendations for activities related to story time. This book was chosen to show the poisoning dangers one can come across during everyday household tasks. A family of monkeys encounters many potential poisoning situations during their daily chores, from bathroom chemicals to berry picking.

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## Add One/Libraries Teach Poison Safety

The IPC encourages parents to participate in the story time project with their children at their local libraries. Families can also visit the poison center Web site at [www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org](http://www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org) to download free copies of all the story time materials to use on their own (available online until March 31, 2006).

Established by Congress in 1961, National Poison Prevention Week is an opportunity to educate communities on poison prevention and the dangers of unintentional poisonings.

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**Editor's Note:** Poison center experts are available for news media interviews. Contact the IPC public affairs staff at 312-906-6146 or 312-906-6142 to arrange an interview.

The Illinois Poison Center serves all of Illinois – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – via a national, toll-free number, 1-800-222-1222. Staffed by pharmacists, physicians, nurses and poison information providers, the IPC provides poison prevention information and treatment advice on household products, medication issues, alcohol and drug misuse, bites and stings and other poisonings.

The IPC is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, an association comprising more than 140 hospitals and health care organizations working together to improve the delivery of health care services in the Chicago area.

### List of participating libraries

Joliet Public Library, 150 N Ottawa St, Joliet, (815) 740-2662  
Lyons Public Library, 4209 Joilet Ave, Lyons, (708) 447-3577  
McCook Public Library, 8419 West 50th Street, McCook, (708) 442-1242  
South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Ave, South Holland, (708) 331-5262  
Lincoln Library, 326 S 7th St, Springfield, (217) 753-4900 ext.215  
Hope Weltz Public Library, 100 South Madison St, Cerro Gordo, (217) 763-5001  
Atwood-Hammond Public Library, 123 N. Main St, Atwood, (217) 578-2727  
Robert W. Rowe Public Library, 120 E S Johnson Ave., Sheridan, (815) 496-2031  
Riverdale Public Library, 208 West 144th St, Riverdale, (708) 841-3311  
Peoria Heights Public Library, 816 E Glen Ave, Peoria Heights, (309) 682-5578  
Sallie Logan Public Library, 1808 Walnut, Murphysboro, (618) 684-2392  
Carlinville Public Library, 510 N Broad St, Carlinville, (217) 854-3505  
Holmes School, 6225 N Richmond Ave, Willowbrook, (630) 655-2703  
Dewey School, 2040 Cherry St, Quincy, (217) 228-7117  
Wood River Public Library, 326 E Ferguson Ave, Wood River, (618) 254-4832  
Ellington Elementary School, 3001 Lindell Ave, Quincy, (217) 222-5697  
Dominy Memorial Library, 201 S Third St, Fairbury, (815) 692-3231  
4-C Mobile Library, 155 N Third St., Suite 300, Dekalb, (815) 758-8149  
Lincoln Public Library District, 725 Pekin Street, Lincoln, (217) 732-5732  
Towanda District Library, 301 S Taylor, Towanda, (309) 728-2176  
Mt. Hope-Funks Grove Library, 111 S Hamilton, McLean, (309) 874-2291  
Martin Township Public Library, 132 W Main St., Colfax, (309) 723-2541  
Calumet City Public Library, 660 Manistee Ave, Calumet City, (708) 862-6220  
Rochester Public Library, 1 Community Drive, Rochester, (217) 498-8454  
Talcott Free Library, 101 E Main Street, Rockton, (815) 624-7511  
McConathy Public Library, 7 Surreybrook Plaza, Sauk Village, (708) 757-4771  
Vernon Area Public Library, 300 Olde Half Day Road, Lincolnshire, (847) 634-3650 ext. 185  
Madison School, 2435 Maine Street, Quincy, (217) 223-6096

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## Add Two/Libraries Teach Poison Safety

Indian Prairie Public Library, 401 S. Plainfield Road, Darien, (630) 887-8760  
Tremont District Library, 215 S. Sampson, Tremont, (309) 925-5432  
Sanwich District Library, 107 E. Center Street, Sandwich, (815) 786-8308  
Manteno Public Library, 50 W. Division Street, Manteno, (815) 468-3323  
Harvey Public Library District, 15441 Turlington Avenue, Harvey, (708) 331-0757  
Rolling Meadows High School - Teen Parenting Program, 5704 Michael Court, Rolling Meadows, (847) 404-9053  
Woodridge Public Library, 3 Plaza Drive, Woodridge, (630) 964-7899  
Limestone Twp Library, 2701 W. Tower Road, Kankakee, (815) 939-1696  
Stickney Forest View Public Library District, 6800 West 43rd Street, Stickney, (708) 749-1050 ext. 130  
Hudson Area Public Library, 104 Pearl Street, Hudson, (309) 726-1103  
Matteson Public Library, 801 S. School Ave, Matteson, (708) 748-4431  
CYHS Family Case Management, 2016 Madison Avenue, Granite City, (618) 877-3433  
East Moline Public Library, 740 16 Avenue, East Moline, (309) 755-9614  
LaGrange Public Library, 405 Shawnut, LaGrange, (708) 352-0576  
Crete Public Library, 1177 N Main St, Crete, (708) 672-8017  
Justice Public Library, 7641 S Oak Grove Ave, Justice, (708) 496-1790  
Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect, Park Ridge, (847) 825-4527  
Sherman Public Library District, 2100 E Andrew Rd., Sherman, (217) 496-2496  
Wayne County Health Department, 405 N Basin Rd., Fairfield, (618) 842-5166  
Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library, 2 W White, Sullivan, (217) 728-7221  
Palos Heights Public Library, 12051 S 71st Ave, Palos Heights, (708) 448-1473  
Weldon Public Library, PO Box 248, Weldon, (217) 736-2215  
Cicero Public Library South Branch, 5225 W Cermak Rd, Cicero, (708) 652-8086 ext. 7  
Broadview Public Library, 2226 S 16th Ave, Broadview, (708) 345-1325  
Cary Area Public Library, 1606 Three Oaks Road, Cary, (847) 639-4210 ext. 229  
Berkeley Public Library, 1637 Taft Avenue, Berkeley, (708) 544-6017  
Alpha Park Public Library, 3527 S Airport Rd, Bartonville, (309) 697-3822