

# How to get rid of Halloween Candy



After the fun

You poured out all of your two liter soda bottles, replaced all of the potato chip snacks with fruit, and signed up all of your children for winter sports. Just when you thought your family's exercise level and food choices were perfect, along comes Halloween, that fabulous candy-filled holiday, to thwart your efforts. Here are some ways to keep the Halloween candy deluge down to a trickle:

-Buy back the candy with toys or money. The Halloween Buy Back Program was started by dentist Chris Cammer in 2005. Traditionally, dentists buy back candy from kids and usually send the candy to United States troops. Find local participating dentists and learn more about the program here.

-Have the Sweet-Tooth Fairy or Switch Witch™ come overnight,

pick up the candy, and leave a present behind.

-Let your children know Halloween (and most holidays) lasts only one day. Live it up on Halloween, then dump the extra sweets into the trashcan the next day. If you hear whining, remind them that until summer, holidays come at a pace of about once a month. Additionally, they may attend an awful lot of birthday parties in between. A parental saying you can recite is, "It's not a treat if you have something all the time."

-If you decide to keep a small bag of candy around, watch out, your children will want to eat some daily. Candy becomes an ongoing "must have." Instead, designate a day of the week that you will let them have some candy such as Candy Friday or Sweet Saturday. If the kids whine for candy on any other day of the week, you can say, "Sorry, it's not Sweet Saturday."

-One parent told me she discourages her kids from eating too much Halloween candy by making their dental appointments on November 1—the day after Halloween.

As final justification for getting rid of the abundance of candy after Halloween, Dr. Kardos and I have heard more than a few parents say, "If I don't get the candy out of my house, I'll be the one who ends up eating it all."

Now, that's a scary Halloween thought.

Naline Lai, MD and Kardos, MD

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# Hooray! United States flu vaccine is here!



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Fight the flu! Vaccinate!

It's time for your child's yearly flu vaccine!

**Why get the flu shot?** Vaccinate against influenza (the flu) not only to avoid missed school days, but also to avoid hospitalizations and death. Last year in the USA, 172 children

died from flu. You may not have heard about these fatalities because more sensational news tends to overshadow news about illness. We wish the news would inform that the vast majority of kids who died from flu had not received the flu vaccine. In addition, about half of the children who died from the flu were previously healthy and without underlying medical problems. Excluding the 2009 flu pandemic (H1N1), last year's flu deaths represents "the highest reported since influenza-associated pediatric mortality became a nationally notifiable condition in 2004." Kids younger than 5 years old have the highest flu complication rate of all children, so even if they do not yet attend daycare or school, bring your little ones in for a flu vaccine. Vaccinate your school-aged kids as well, for they spread the flu to more folks than any other age group.

**Does it help to wait to give the vaccine? What if the vaccine wears off before flu season ends?**

We wish we could predict just when the flu will hit, but sadly we cannot. Therefore, we urge you to give your children the flu vaccine as soon as your pediatrician has it available. Like all vaccines, it will take about two weeks for the protection against flu to kick in, and you never know when flu will strike your community. Did anyone catch the story about Vanilla Ice quarantined on a plane in New York with sick passengers last week? Turns out flu was on board. Don't worry about immunity decreasing over time, infectious disease experts would not allow us to give it in early fall if they thought protection wouldn't last for at least a few months.

**If I give my children the flu vaccine every year, why do I have to give it again this year?** Even we constantly-exposed-to-germs pediatricians get our flu vaccine yearly. The flu germs morph from year to year so the vaccine also changes.

**Why does my younger child need a second dose this year?**

As in previous years, children under nine years of age need a booster dose the first year they receive the vaccine. If your

young child *should* have received a booster dose last year, but missed it, they will receive two doses of this year's vaccine spaced one month apart (the primary dose plus a booster dose).

**Is the nasal spray form back? Or is it only in injectable form?**

The nasal spray form of the flu vaccine is back for healthy kids ages 2 years and up. However, this year, it received only a lukewarm reception from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The AAP recommends giving all children aged 6 months and older the flu SHOT, because in past years the intranasal form did not protect against the flu nearly as well as the shot did.

Not only is the nasal spray vaccine not getting a high endorsement, but some kids with asthma and kids with certain immune system problems are not allowed to get the nasal spray form. All kids can get the shot. So, pediatricians will continue to recommend injectable form of flu vaccine this year. However, with the rationale that something is better than nothing, for the severely injection-phobic family, some doctors may elect to give the nasal spray.

**In the past, my child did not get the flu vaccine because he is allergic to eggs- did that change?**

Even kids with severe egg allergies can get the flu shot safely in their pediatrician's office. Now we know that allergic reactions to flu vaccine, as with any vaccine, are exceedingly rare.

**We visit other people's homes only if they are not sick. If my child's friend doesn't have flu symptoms, doesn't that mean we can't catch it from him?**

Nope. You are infectious the day before symptoms show up.

**Why is it worth it? The coverage is never 100 percent.**

Children who get the flu vaccine but then get the flu anyway do not get sick as severely as kids who are unvaccinated. If all kids and adults got flu vaccine, then the chances of YOUR

vaccinated child getting flu would be MUCH less. That's how vaccines work.

Here we have tips on how to help your children if they get the flu.

You can read a comprehensive summary of this year's flu vaccine recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control [here](#).

Julie Kardos, MD and Naline Lai, MD

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**Updated car seat safety guidelines!**



Car seat safety isn't just child's play.

Just in time for families who plan to drive to Labor Day Weekend destinations, the American Academy of Pediatrics updated their car seat safety recommendations.

Families are now encouraged to keep their children rear facing for **as long as possible**, until they exceed the height or weight limit allowed by their car seat's manufacturer. This means that some kids who are older than two years will continue to ride backwards. Dr. Lai's own pip squeaks easily would have ridden backwards until they were three or four years old.

Regardless of age, kids facing backward in a car crash fare better than kids facing forward. A rear facing car seat prevents whip lash by fully supporting a child's head and neck. A forward facing car seat does not restrain kids' heads. In a crash, kids' heads continue to move at the speed of the car until the shoulder harnesses and lap belts restrain their bodies. It makes us wish that grownups could also somehow ride

backwards.

Other recommendations remain the same. For example, children can graduate from booster seats when they are 4 ft 9 inches tall and the car's seat belt fits them properly. You can read about other car safety tips and view a link to children's airline safety restraints in our 2017 post about car seat safety. In the post you will see a fabulous photo of a child who was saved by her car seat.

Again, no matter the age, as long as they fit, keep your children riding backwards in their car seats.

We're thrilled that car safety has progressed over the years. Pictured here is Dr. Lai ready to go out in her 1960's car seat :



*It's Dr. Lai in her 1960's car seat!  
note the two point harness and the big safety pin*

Drive Safe!

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# Ready for school: backpacks, packing lunches, when to keep your kid home for illness, and more



Now that you just read how to drop your kid off at school on the first day, you may be backpack shopping, pondering what to send your child for lunch, and knowing that your child will have difficulty waking up early for school. Never fear! Your Two Peds can help you and your kids get ready for school.

First, make sure your child's backpack fits correctly and is not too heavy. Our guest blogger, a pediatric physical therapist, provides tips to help lighten the load.

Help your child get back on a school-friendly sleep schedule. If your child is still in summer vacation sleep mode, we provide ways to help get your child's sleep back on track.

If your child brings lunch to school, you may need some hints on what to pack and how to beware of junk food disguised as healthy food. And this post provides suggestions for healthy snacks.

Need suggestions on how to motivate your child to want to learn? Two former school principals share their wisdom in this post.

Finally, you should know when to keep your child home for illness. This post also contains some surprising truths about when you can send your child back to school during as well as after certain maladies.

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# **How to stop nail biting- thoughts to chew on**



A preschooler nibbles on her nails.

Stop nail biting! One of our readers wrote to us: “My 3.5-year-old daughter has started biting her nails to the quick. She does have a new little sister so perhaps it is stress/anxiety about that, but I don’t know what to do. Do I ignore it? Offer rewards for not biting? Please help – the habit drives me nuts and her poor little fingers are looking worse for the wear (and painful).”

As many of you have likely already discovered, telling your kid, or pleading with them, or bribing, ignoring, or yelling at them, will not help your kids stop nail biting.

Nail biting is a common childhood habit. Really common. In fact, according to this review article from 2015, it is THE most common habit seen in school-aged and college-aged kids. As many as 60% of kids, at some point, bite their nails. Nail biting usually starts between the ages of three to six years, so our reader's child is right on target for this habit.

I am amused that many of the parents who ask me how to help their kids stop biting their nails are, themselves, nail biters. I will point out that even if we can't stop nail biting, the concerned parent is a living example of a nail biter who still grows into a successful adult.

Assuming that your child is otherwise acting well, eating and sleeping normally, and mostly cheerful, it is not always important to identify the trigger of nail biting. More importantly, make sure your child washes their hands after playing outside and before eating (and nail biting) to limit germ spread. Check their fingers for signs of infections that can result from nail biting.

### **What to do**

A quick internet search reveals dozens of products that you can dab onto your child's fingers to discourage nail biting. Products with nasty tasting ingredients such as "bitter apple" tote promises such as "stop nail biting instantly." Unfortunately, most nail biters are not deterred by paint-on products.

Usually kids have a hard time breaking a habit unless they REALLY want to break it themselves. Here are some suggestions to help:

- Offer painting nails or small rewards for not biting nails.
- Don't be a nag.
- Establish a code word for *stop biting your nails* that only your child knows. The word can be a nonsense word

(e.g. oogleschmertz) or a word entirely out of context (e.g. elephant). For younger kids especially, this creates an environment of humor, rather than annoyance when you are reminding them to stop biting.

- Substitute a less annoying habit for nail biting. Hand them something to keep their hands busy. Give them a squishy toy to squish or a hair scrunchy to wear on their wrist to flick.
- Offer older kids sugarless chewing gum to keep their teeth busy.

If all else fails, take heart in one study that came out in favor of nail biting (and thumb sucking). Perhaps it's not imperative to stop nail biting after all. The study showed that nail biters and thumb suckers had a lower rate of atopic sensitization (medical term for allergic eczema) than their non-nail biting or thumb sucking peers. The researchers conclude "Although we do not suggest that children should be encouraged to take up these oral habits, the findings suggest that thumb sucking and nail biting reduce the risk for developing sensitization to common aeroallergens." In other words, the nail biters show fewer allergy symptoms in their skin than the non-nail biters.

Let's face it: We all are creatures of habit. The key is to make sure the habit is not self-detrimental. Every childhood habit does not need to be broken immediately, even if it drives us parents crazy.

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# In a scrape? Preventing infection in cuts and scrapes



How can you tell if your child's scrape is infected if his skin is already bright red?

I heaved a sigh of relief. My children greeted my husband and me at the door. The children had just baby-sat themselves. I thought everyone was unscathed until I saw one of my children covered in bandages. Cuts and scrapes? Apparently, although I had admonished them not to ride anything with wheels and not to climb on anything above the ground, the child with the bandages had tripped over her own feet during a benign game of four square.

"Did you wash the scrapes?" I asked.

"Yes," the kids said, proudly nodding. They knew the first line of defense against a wound infection is to wash out cuts

and scrapes. But as it turns out, they had only dabbed the cuts with wet paper towels. Aghast, I propelled the injured child off to the bathroom and hosed down the cuts. Too many times I have seen a minor scrape turn into a major skin infection.

When a wound is not thoroughly cleansed, the bacteria which normally live on intact skin (Staphylococcus or Streptococcus) find an opportunity to enter the body through the wound and cause infections. Even a mosquito bite can turn into a raging, puss-filled mess if scratched often and not cleansed enough. These days, some children carry on their skin a type of Staphylococcus called MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus). Since this germ can be tough to treat when it causes an infection, a thorough cleansing is more important than ever.

While infection is rarely introduced from the actual object that cuts the child, exceptions include cuts caused by animal or human bites (the human mouth is particularly filthy) and cuts caused by old, dirty or rusty metal. Tetanus lives in non-oxygenated places such as soil. So for deep or very dirty wounds, make sure your child's tetanus vaccine is up to date.

Despite what many believe, wiping the surface of a cut with a wipe is not adequate to cleanse a wound. "Irrigate, irrigate, irrigate," a wise Emergency Department physician explained to me when I was a resident in training. "I have never had someone return with a wound infection," she said proudly. In the emergency room, saline is usually used. At home, soap and *running* water are effective. Stay away from hydrogen peroxide and rubbing alcohol because they can irritate rather than help the skin.

After washing your child's cuts and scrapes, you can use bandages to help prevent further exposure to germs and to avoid irritation from clothes or from your child's scratching, probing fingers. Infections, if they occur, can set in 2-3

days after your child gets her wound. Remove the bandage daily and check the wound for signs of infection such as pus, increased redness, warmth and pain. Wash the wound again, and then replace the bandage. You could also apply topical antibiotic such as Bacitracin to further help prevent wound infection.

So, even if your child just took a shower, wash him again if he scrapes himself. The sooner you irrigate even the tiniest of wounds, the better.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of antibiotics.

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## **Easy way to remove a tick**





ick, a tick

I was grumpy all morning after realizing that my dog was out of tick repellent. Really grumpy. I did not like the thought of having to remove a tick from my dog.

After all, on the East Coast of the United States, we are seeing ticks galore. All month long, parents who have had to remove a tick have been bringing us presents such as the one pictured here. Yes, that is a tick you see nicely trapped in tape. Sometimes when parents bring us a tick, it's still clinging to the child and they ask us to remove it. To save you a trip to the doctor's office, here is a quick refresher on how to pluck the bugs off:

## How to remove a tick:

1. Take a deep breath and **pretend that it's just a speck of lint**—not an ugly critter with a bloated stomach and writhing

legs.

2. **Use tweezers** and firmly clasp the head. If the tick is tiny, you will end up grabbing the entire body.

3. **Pull the tick straight up and off.** Hint: Press down on the skin on either side of the tick so that the skin doesn't pull up when you pull the tick off. This lessens any pinching sensation your child may feel.

## **How NOT to remove a tick:**

**Please do not try to burn a tick off**—you'll just burn your child's skin.

**Avoid suffocation techniques** such as covering a tick with petroleum jelly (Vaseline) or nail polish. These techniques are not very effective, they allow the tick to stay on for a longer period of time, and also they may cause the tick to become slippery and difficult to grasp.

## **What to do after you have removed the tick:**

After removal, if the tick's head is left behind, don't go digging for it. Just like a tiny splinter, your skin will naturally try to expel it. Soaking the area in warm water will help the process along. Don't worry about disease transmission: there is not any disease stuck in a tick's head.

**Wash the skin where the tick was using soap and water** as you would any cut to prevent a skin infection. A small, minimally tender, pimple-like bump is a common reaction which may linger for a few days. This bump is an irritation response of the skin. If the tick was a deer tick (typically the size of a poppy or sesame seed), watch for the rash of Lyme disease that appears as a flat, pink, round patch about a week later. The patch may clear in the center and grows to at least 2 1/2 inches across.

My daughter told me that once, a girl at her lunch table had a tick on her. None of the kids could pick it off and the girl sat screaming until the lunch lady came over to help her. Maybe you'll be the lucky adult called over to help next time.

Just remember...pretend it's a speck of lint.

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## Poison ivy: stop the itch



Teach your child to recognize poison ivy: "leaves of three, let'em be!"

Recently we've had a parade of itchy children troop through our office. The culprit: poison ivy.

**Myth buster:** Fortunately, the rash of poison ivy is NOT contagious. You can "catch" a poison ivy rash ONLY from the plant, not from another person.

**Another myth buster:** You can **not** spread the rash of poison ivy on yourself through scratching. However, where the poison (oil) has touched your skin, your skin can show a delayed reaction- sometimes up to two weeks later. Different areas of skin can react at different times, thus giving the illusion of a spreading rash.

**Some home remedies for the itch:**

**Hopping into the shower** and rinsing off within fifteen minutes of exposure can curtail the reaction. Warning, a bath immediately after exposure may cause the oils to simply swirl around the bathtub and touch new places on your child.

**Hydrocortisone 1%-** This is a mild topical steroid which decreases inflammation. We suggest the ointment- more staying power and unlike the cream will not sting on open areas, use up to four times a day

**Calamine lotion – a.k.a. the pink stuff-** This is an active ingredient in many of the combination creams. Apply as many times as you like.

**Diphenhydramine (brand name Benadryl)-** take orally up to every six hours. If this makes your child too sleepy, once a day Cetirizine (brand name Zyrtec) also has very good anti-itch properties. Some doctors recommend giving it twice a day- ask your pediatrician.

**Oatmeal baths –** Crush oatmeal, place in old hosiery, tie it off and float in the bathtub- this will prevent oat meal from clogging up your bath tub. Alternatively buy the commercial ones (e.g. Aveeno)

**Do not use alcohol or bleach–** these items will irritate the rash more than help

The biggest worry with poison ivy rashes is the chance of infection. Just like with an itchy insect bite, with each

scratch, your child is possibly introducing infection into an open wound. At night, turn up the air conditioning and put your child into pajamas that cover up the poison ivy. Kids who don't scratch in the day often scratch subconsciously at night. Unfortunately, it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference between an allergic reaction to poison ivy and an infection. Both are red, both can be warm, both can be swollen.

However, infections cause pain – if there is pain associated with a poison ivy rash, think infection. Allergic reactions cause itchiness- if there is itchiness associated with a rash, think allergic reaction. Because it usually takes time for an infection to “settle in,” an infection will not occur immediately after an exposure to poison ivy. Infection usually occurs on the 2nd or 3rd day of scratching. If you have any concerns take your child to her doctor.

Generally, any poison ivy rash which is in the area of the eye or genitals (difficult to apply topical remedies), appears infected, or is just plain making your child miserable needs medical attention.

When all else fails, comfort yourself with this statistic: up to 85% of people are allergic to poison ivy. If misery loves company, your child certainly has company.

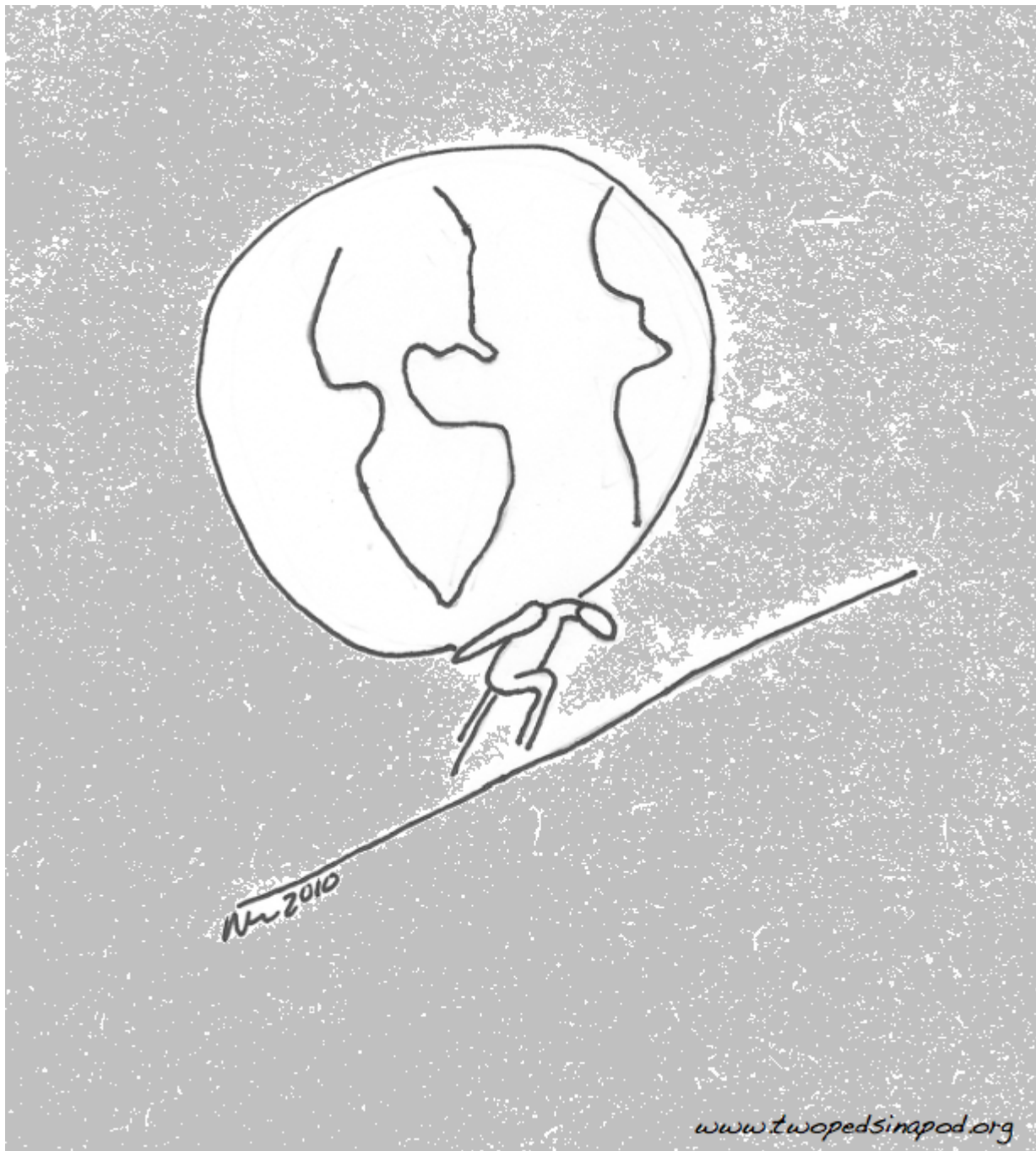
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## **Discussing suicide: how much**

# should I tell my kids?



*In the wake of chef Anthony Bourdain and designer Kate Spade's deaths from suicide, you may be wondering how to address the topic of suicide with your child. We bring back psychotherapist Dina Ricciardo's post for guidance:*

"Hi, it's me, Hannah. Hannah Baker." So begins the first episode of *13 Reasons Why*, a thirteen installment Netflix series that focuses on the aftermath of the suicide of a 17-

year-old high school student. Based on the novel by Jay Asher, the series has sparked quite a bit of debate and concern among parents and mental health professionals. At its best, the series has served as a conversation starter; at its worst, it has glamorized suicide and the fantasy of revenge. At the end of the day, however, an important question remains: How do we talk with our kids about suicide? While many difficult topics have become increasingly safer to discuss, suicide is one that is still shrouded in secrecy and shame. In fact, it is so difficult to talk about that I had a hard time writing this post. Finding the right words about something that often remains unspoken is not an easy task. So if circumstances require it, how are we to explain suicide to our children?

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, research has shown that over 90% of people who died by suicide had a diagnosable, though not always identified, brain illness at the time of their death. Most often this illness was depression, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia, and was complicated by substance use and abuse. Just as people die from physical illnesses, they can die as the result of emotional ones. If we can change the narrative about suicide from talking about it as a weakness or character flaw to the unfortunate outcome of a serious, diagnosable, and treatable illness, then it will become easier for us to speak with honesty and compassion.

Telling the truth about any death is important. While it is natural for us adults to want to protect our children from pain, shielding them from the truth or outright lying will undermine their trust and can create a culture of secrecy and shame that can transcend generations. We can protect our children best by offering comfort, reassurance, and simple, honest answers to their questions. It is important to recognize that we adults typically offer more information than our children require. We should start by offering basic

information, then let them take the lead on how much they actually want to know.

For young children, your statements may look something like this: "You have seen me crying, that is because I am sad because Uncle Joe has died." They may not even ask how the death occurred, but if they do, you can say "He died by suicide. That means he killed himself." The rest of the conversation will depend on the child's response. With older children, the narrative can follow a similar theme yet use more sophisticated language. The older the child, the more likely they are to ask direct questions. Some examples of honest answers are "Do you know how people have illness in their bodies, like when Grandma had a heart attack and our neighbor had cancer? People can get illness in their brains too, and when that happens, they feel confused, hopeless, and make bad decisions. Uncle Joe didn't know how to get himself help to stop the pain." If they ask how the suicide occurred, you can say "With a gun" or "She cut herself." Sometimes you will have to say "I don't know. I wish I knew the answer." Whatever the age of your child, do your best to use simple, truthful language.

Regardless of age, children converse about and process death differently than adults. If you tell your child about a suicide, it is likely that he/she will want to talk about multiple times over the course of days, weeks, or even years. Keep the dialogue open, and check in with them periodically if they have questions. If you find that you or your family is in need of the support of a professional, you might want to consider a bereavement group or a trained professional who specializes in grief. These resources are available through online directories, local hospitals, and the Psychology Today therapist finder. Overall, be aware that providing truthful information, encouraging questions, and offering loving reassurance to your children can allow your family to find the strength to cope with terrible loss.



(Excerpts taken from The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's "Talking to Children about Suicide", [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org).)

Links:

Sesame Street Workshop's When Families Grieve  
The Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families  
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
Hands Holding Hearts (Bucks County, PA)  
The Jed Foundation

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# **Stealthy Salmonella! Not just in your eggs**



Raw chicken left out overnight—Dr. Lai's recipe for Salmonella

These days it seems that the bacteria *Salmonella* is lurking everywhere. Last month's egg recall for possible *Salmonella* contamination affected over 200 million eggs, but *Salmonella* is not just in eggs. In the last few months, dried coconuts and even guinea pigs (as pets, not as food!) have caused people gastrointestinal misery.

Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* usually causes fever and crampy diarrhea. Sometimes the stools contain blood. This stomach bug mainly lurks in raw poultry, raw eggs, raw beef, and unpasteurized dairy products. Luckily, *Salmonella* does not jump up and attack humans. In general, people are safe from disease as long as they do not eat salmonella-infested food. But children below the age of five often put their hands in their mouths and can acquire *Salmonella* after touching a contaminated source.

Reptiles such as lizards and turtles can carry *Salmonella* in their stool and are not recommended as pets for young children. Turtles that are four inches or smaller (about the

size of a deck of playing cards) are most likely to harbor the bacteria. As a preschooler, Dr. Kardos remembers that her tiny pet turtle suddenly disappeared. Her parents told her that “Her pet would be happier if it went outside to the stream to swim with the other turtles.” In retrospect, Dr. Kardos thinks her pediatrician dad was worried about *Salmonella* and made the turtle magically disappear.

Even cute little chicks can be problematic. *Salmonella* carried in the gut of a chick can contaminate the entire surface of a chick. So, although kissing and cuddling a chick makes for a good Instagram post, discourage your children from doing so.

Unfortunately, you cannot depend on a warning stench arising from your lunch to warn you that it is inedible. *Salmonella* often hides in food and it is difficult to tell what is or is not contaminated. So how can you prevent your kids from catching *Salmonella*?

Luckily *Salmonella* is killed by heat and bleach. Even if an otherwise fine-looking and odorless raw egg has *Salmonella*, adequate cooking will destroy the bacteria. Gone are the days when parents can feed kids soft boiled eggs in a silver cup, have kids wipe up with toast the yolk from a sunny-side up egg, add a raw egg to a milkshake, or let their kids lick the left-over cake batter from the mixing bowl. Instead, cook hardboiled eggs until the yolks are green and crumble, and make sure your scrambled eggs aren't runny. Wash all utensils well. The disinfecting solution used in childcare centers of  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup bleach to 1 gallon water works well to sanitize counters. Do not keep perishable food, even if it is cooked, out at room temperature for more than two hours. And wash, wash, wash your hands.

A mom once called us frantic because her child had just happily eaten a half-cooked chicken nugget. What if this happens to your child? Don't panic. Watch for symptoms – the onset of diarrhea from *Salmonella* is usually between 12 to 36

hours after exposure but can occur up to three days later. The diarrhea can last up to 5-7 days. If symptoms occur, the general recommendation is to ride it out. Prevent dehydration by giving plenty of fluids. My simple rule to prevent dehydration is that more must go in than comes out.

Although of unproven benefit, antibiotic treatment may be considered if your child is at risk for overwhelming infection, including infants younger than three months old and those with abnormal immune systems (cancer, HIV, Sickle Cell disease, kids taking daily steroids for other illnesses) or those with chronic gastrointestinal tract diseases\*. Using antibiotics to treat a typical case of salmonella not only promotes general antibiotic resistance, but also does not shorten the time frame for the illness. In fact, the medication can prolong how long your child carries the germ in his stool.

Pictured above is a pot of chicken Dr. Lai accidentally left out overnight one warm summer night. Yuck.

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\**Red Book*, 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, American Academy of Pediatrics