



Children are curious. Teach them what to do if they find a needle or sharp object in the community – **BEFORE** they find one.

Talking to Children About Needles

How you teach your child will depend on their age and your own comfort level. It is important to answer questions if you can. This is a great opportunity to give your child valuable information for their safety and help them understand the community around them.

Teaching your kids about needle safety:

Show your child a picture of a syringe so they know what a needle looks like in case they find one.

If they find a needle, teach them:

- » Do not touch it. Needles can be sharp and may hurt you and they can have germs on them.
- » If you are playing with friends, tell them not to touch it while you get an adult.
- » Tell an adult you trust about the needle. It's the adult's job to make sure the needle is thrown away properly.
- » See information on how to [Collect and Dispose of Needles Safely](#).



When a child asks:

Here are some child friendly language options depending on age and maturity.



Use person first language, this helps to destigmatizes substance use. Refer to Health Canada's [Stigma: Why Words Matter](#) guide to learn more about stigma and why language is important.