



# Talking to kids about needles

**To keep children and youth safe, teach them what to do if they see a needle on the ground.**

Start by showing your child a picture of a needle so they know what it is. Then, use this information sheet to help talk about what to do if they find one.

## **For young children (up to grade 6), talk about:**

- Needles on the ground can be sharp and unsafe
- Don't touch needles or sharp objects
- Ask an adult for help if you find one
- Make sure their friends stay away from a needle on the ground

## **For older children (grades 7-12), talk about:**

- Ask an adult for help if you do not feel safe picking up a needle
- The safest way to pick up a needle:
- If possible, use gloves and tongs to pick it up
  - Don't touch the sharp end of needle
  - Place needle, point end first, in a hard-sided plastic container, and tightly seal
  - Wash your hands with soap and water after picking up the needle
  - Give sealed container to an adult
  - Never put the cap back on a needle
  - Do not put needles down the toilet or in the garbage

**Injuries from needles can be prevented by making sure children and youth know what to do.**

If you have any questions, please contact your local  
Northwestern Health Unit office.