Preventing Medication Errors
Steps you can take to help

1. Make sure that all of your child’s doctors and pharmacists know:
   - Everything your child is taking, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and dietary supplements, such as vitamins and herbs
   - Any allergies and adverse reactions your child has to medicines
   - Your child’s weight and age

2. When your doctor writes a prescription for your child:
   - Make sure you can read it.
   - Go over the prescription with your doctor. Ask for information about your child’s medicines in terms you can understand.

3. When you visit the pharmacy:
   - Ask your pharmacist any questions about the directions and other information on the prescription label.
   - Ask your pharmacist any questions about using the device for measuring your child’s liquid medicine.
   - Ask for written information about:
     - What is the medicine for?
     - How am I supposed to give it, at what time each day, with or without food, and for how long?
     - What side effects may occur? What do I do if they occur?
     - Is the medicine safe to give with other medicines or dietary supplements?
     - What do I do if I miss a dose?
     - How do I properly store the medicine?

4. When you are at home:
   - Store medicines in a safe location that is too high for young children to reach or see.
   - Use a medicine log to keep track each time you take or give medicine.

   If you have any questions about your medicines after you get home, call your pharmacist at 206-987-2138.

   Adapted from AHRQ Patient Fact Sheet.

To Learn More
- Seattle Ocean Pharmacy
  206-987-2138
- Bellevue Pharmacy
  206-884-9120
- Your child’s healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services
- In the hospital, ask your child’s nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.