

PARENTING

Can I give marijuana to my child for medical uses?

Marijuana is not currently recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for medical uses for children.

- Please discuss the risks and possible safer alternatives with your doctor before deciding to give your child marijuana.
- Don't use marijuana unless under the medical supervision of a doctor.

My child got into my marijuana, what should I do?

If your child accidentally ingests a marijuana infused product, do **NOT** wait to see if your child develops symptoms – **get help right away!**

- If your child has stopped breathing, is having a seizure, or is unresponsive, **call 911 immediately!**
- Otherwise, go to the nearest emergency room right away.

How should I talk to my kids about marijuana?

It is important to discuss the risks of marijuana with your children.

- The brain is growing so rapidly during the teen years and marijuana should be avoided at this time.
 - Teenagers that use marijuana are more likely to become addicted and be at risk for mental illness later in life.
 - Let your children know that while their brain is “under construction” in the teen years, they need to take extra special care of their body and brain and avoid using marijuana during this time.
-

FOR MORE INFORMATION



POISON CONTROL

Preventing poisonings, saving lives, and limiting injury from poisonings.

1-800-CHILDREN

A caring, free, and confidential support line connecting pregnant women and parents to services and information.



For more information on marijuana and your health, visit our “Health Issues of Marijuana” page:
www.tchd.org/487/Marijuana

1-800-LA LECHE

La Leche League helps mothers breastfeed worldwide through mother-to-mother support.



Marijuana and Your Child



Information on Marijuana
for Pregnant and Breastfeeding
Women, Caregivers and Parents.



PREGNANCY

Should I use marijuana/THC while I'm pregnant?

No, it is not currently recommended to use marijuana smoked, eaten, or in any other form while you are pregnant.

- THC can pass from mother to the unborn child through the placenta.
- Some research suggests marijuana can harm a developing baby and may cause behavior and learning problems, especially as the child grows older.

What if my doctor prescribes or suggests marijuana use while I'm pregnant?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved marijuana use during pregnancy.

- Some doctors may suggest using marijuana for nausea or to improve appetite, however there may be other safer alternatives for you to use.
- Discuss the risks of marijuana use with your doctor before deciding to use marijuana during your pregnancy.



There is no known safe level of marijuana use while pregnant or breastfeeding.

BREASTFEEDING

Is it safe to use marijuana while I'm breastfeeding my baby?

No, it is not recommended that breastfeeding mothers use marijuana.

- THC can be stored in breastmilk for long periods of time – from several weeks to months. Also, marijuana may decrease your milk supply.

How would marijuana in my breastmilk impact my baby?

- Marijuana could impact your baby's breathing and his feeding and sleeping patterns.
- THC is passed on to the baby through breastmilk and he may test positive on a urine drug screen for several weeks.
- Marijuana in breastmilk could impact your baby's growth and development.

What should I do if I use marijuana and I'm breastfeeding?

If you are breastfeeding your baby, you should stop using marijuana.

- **If you have questions regarding breastfeeding and marijuana, please contact your healthcare provider.**

What's in Marijuana?

Marijuana is a plant that contains THC or Tetrahydrocannabinol.

THC is the active ingredient in marijuana that provides the "high" when smoked or consumed.

PARENTING



Is it okay for me to use marijuana while I'm taking care of my kids?

No, there are several reasons why it is not a good idea to use marijuana while caring for children:

1 Sober Caregiver

The biggest danger of using marijuana while caring for children is safety.

- Marijuana can impair a parent's ability to protect their child from danger, respond to their child's needs, and make sound decisions.
- It is important to always have a sober caregiver for your baby or child – whether you are using alcohol, prescription medications, or marijuana.

2 Storage

Make sure marijuana is safely stored out of the reach of children.

- Don't ever store marijuana edibles with other food or in a place children can access.
- Keep edibles in locked storage as edibles are very attractive to children.

3 Growing

It is safest not to grow marijuana in your home while you have children due to the increased risk of exposure to mold, chemicals and marijuana itself. Contact your local law enforcement for information on having a legal grow in your home.

4 Secondhand Smoke

Marijuana smoke can increase the amount of marijuana in your child's system and is most likely to do so in closed spaces like a car or house. Marijuana smoke could negatively impact your child's health.