Problem Solving Together:

Professionals can use this process as a guide when working alongside families to identify and address safety risks within the home. The family must be involved in all stages of the problem-solving process to ensure realistic solutions are identified and caregiver buy-in is obtained.

Example

Child is 3 years old and likes to put things in his mouth. There is a risk of poisoning from consuming medication.

Recognize the risk of injury

(what is the injury type, likelihood, severity, and age and stage of the child?)

Family lives in small apartment. Caregiver regularly needs medication. Caregiver wants to improve safety in the home.

Understand the family context

(what personal and environmental factors might impact the injury risk?)

Use medication lock box, place medication in high cabinet, set alarm in phone to remind caregiver to take medication.

Brainstorm ideas to reduce risk

(empower the caregiver to find an idea that works for their family)

Review available resources

(consider community resources, family, friends, local programs)

Poison prevention posters and information from PADIS (poison prevention centre), low-cost lock boxes from local store.

Implement ideas to reduce risk

(support the caregiver as they implement their idea)

Place medication in lock box and set alarm in phone to remind caregiver to take medication.

Assess outcome

(is the idea working for the family? do we need to make any changes?)

Is the child able to access the medication? Is the caregiver using the lock box? Is the caregiver remembering their medication?

