



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2017 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Laura Kate Holliday	Project Number J0708
Project Title Can Young Children Mistake Medicine for Candy?	
Abstract Objectives/Goals The purpose of my science fair project is to determine if young children can mistake common medicines sold over the counter for candy that is similar in appearance. Methods/Materials 5 types of medication and 5 types of candy similar in appearance affixed to index cards and 32 kindergarten students. Each subject was shown ten different index cards and was asked if the item affixed to the card was medicine or candy. The results were recorded and the age and gender of each subject was noted. Results Young children mistake medicine for candy 52% of the time. The results also showed that age made a greater difference in the results than gender because 6 year olds were able to correctly determine candy from medicine 10% more accurately than 5 year olds. Conclusions/Discussion If medications are left where young children can get them, they are likely to ingest them because many medications look like candy. Many medications are manufactured in the same shape, size, color and overall appearance of commonly sold candy. There are approximately 2 million accidental poisonings a year. Manufacturers of medications should be required to make the medicine look different than candy.	
Summary Statement I found that young children often cannot determine the difference between medicine and candy.	
Help Received None. I designed the experiment, determined which medicine and candy to use, and conducted the testing.	