

dōTERRA® eBOOK

Essential Oils & Children



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1 CHAPTER Using Essential Oils on or around Children

Once you have experienced the effective power of essential oils, incorporating oils into your lifestyle and daily routine is the next natural step. For many people, that daily routine includes children. Many parents wonder, “Are essential oils safe to use on my children?” The simple answer to this question is yes, but it is important to remember that there are certain safety guidelines and recommendations to consider when it comes to using essential oils with children. Essential oils can be safely used on or around children, and just like anything you would use with your children—topical products, hygienic products, cleaning products, etc.—special caution should be used when applying oils to children.



Yes, essential oils are safe for children

Because children are smaller and more sensitive than adults and are still developing, it is important to understand that the rules of essential oils are different for children than they are for parents. Once you have learned the special safety guidelines required for using essential oils with your children, it is easy to help your kids reap the benefits that oils have to offer. If your child has specific health conditions or concerns, it is always wise to consult with your child’s physician before using essential oils on them.



How do I know that essential oils are safe to use on my children?

While special precautions should be taken when using essential oils around children, parents can still be confident that it is in fact safe for children to use essential oils.

Historic use

First, parents who are new to essential oils should know that essential oils and plant parts have been used for centuries to promote wellness, and are not a new fad or trend, but a tried and true solution for many of life's everyday problems. Families in ancient Egypt used plant extracts and oils for everything from cooking and beauty treatments to embalming and religious ceremonies. For centuries, families in China have continued practices that promote wellness by using plant extracts and materials. Plant extracts and oils were a major staple in the households of ancient Rome, as plant parts were used for their fragrance and calming properties. After centuries of safe use, parents can rest easy knowing that essential oils have been proven safe and effective time and time again.



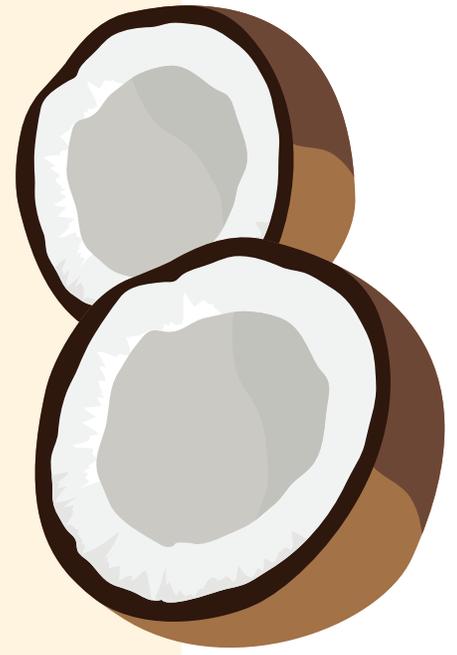
Essential oils are likely in many of the products you already use

Because essential oils are naturally occurring compounds found in plants, they are a popular ingredient for many commercial products. Essential oils are often used in perfumes, soaps, candles, lotions, and skincare products to add fragrance. Due to their powerful purifying properties, essential oils are also frequently added to cleaning agents and products. Chances are, you most likely already have products in your home that contain essential oils. The benefit of using pure essential oils on their own is that it allows you to avoid the harmful toxins and chemicals that are often added to household products.



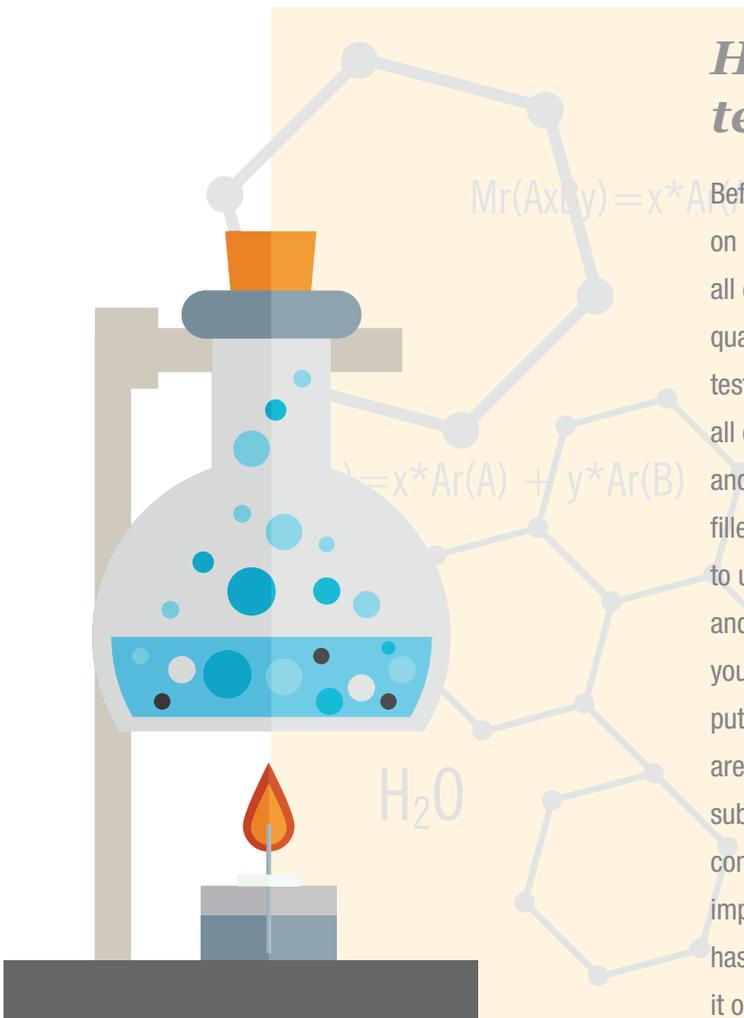
Essential oils are natural, and can be safe when used properly

High quality essential oils are pure, potent, natural, and safe when used properly. As with anything we use on our bodies, there are special safety guidelines that can help the user stay within the perimeters of safe use. Even seemingly harmless substances like water can be damaging to the body when used in excess amounts—and essential oils are the same way. As long as you educate yourself about the proper uses, you can safely and effectively use essential oils on yourself and around your family. Just as you wouldn't allow your child to eat, drink, or use a product topically without knowing what it is or what it does, the key to safe essential oil use is to learn about the proper application and safety guidelines. We will discuss these safety guidelines in more detail in chapter two.



High quality oils go through testing to ensure safety

Before you use essential oils on your children (or on yourself), it is important to understand that not all essential oils are created equal. Typically, high quality essential oils go through rounds of rigorous testing to ensure that the product is safe to use. Not all companies use these thorough testing methods, and many essential oil distributors will use synthetic fillers that alter the efficacy of the oils. It is important to use essential oils that have been carefully produced and thoroughly tested to ensure safety for you and your family. For example, dōTERRA® essential oils are put through a rigorous testing process where they are checked for contaminants, potentially harmful substances, and any other components that could compromise the safety and quality of the oil. It is important to choose a high quality essential oil that has been tested and cleared for safe use before using it on your family.



CHAPTER

2

Safety Guidelines

As mentioned, the key to safely and successfully using essential oils on children is observing the special safety guidelines that have been set to protect children from overexposure or sensitivity. As a parent, it is important to remember that the rules for using essential oils with children are different than those for adults. By observing specific guidelines when it comes to essential oil dilution, application, storage, and more, you can help your children safely and effectively enjoy the benefits that essential oils have to offer. The following are some basic rules to follow when using essential oils on or around children. Each of these guidelines will be covered in greater detail throughout this chapter.



Rules for using essential oils with children

1. Always supervise children during essential oil usage
2. Always give a child smaller doses of essential oils than you would give an adult
3. Dilute essential oils before using them on children to reduce the risk for sensitivity
4. Avoid sensitive areas during application
5. Beware of sunlight exposure that can lead to sensitivity (particularly with citrus oils)
6. Children should not take adult supplements without consulting a healthcare professional
7. Always store essential oils in a safe place, out of the reach of children
8. Educate yourself as a parent; always read labels and manufacturer recommendations
9. Consult with your child's physician before using essential oils, particularly if there are health concerns

Always supervise children during essential oil usage

Perhaps the most important safety guideline when it comes to essential oils and children is to ensure that your child only uses essential oils under adult supervision. Even if your children are used to essential oils and know how to apply them, it is always best to supervise any oil application to ensure safety. Essential oils are extremely potent and powerful, and many children do not understand concepts like dosage, dilution, and sensitivity. In addition to teaching your kids about applying essential oils safely, it is important to always be present when any essential oils are being used around your children.

Dosage

Because children have a smaller body mass; have thinner, more sensitive skin; and are still developing, their use of essential oils should always be smaller than adult. For a comparison of adult versus child uses of essential oils, take a look at the chart below:

APPLICATION	ADULT		CHILD	
	Ideal Amount	24 hr Max	Ideal Amount	24 hr Max
Aromatic	-	-	-	-
Topical	3-6 drops	12-36 drops	1-2 drops	3-12 drops

This chart provides general guidelines for uses when it comes to using essential oils with your children, but remember to always consult your child's physician about any specific health conditions or concerns before using essential oils on your child.

As you can see from the chart, one of the easiest ways to share the benefits of essential oils with your child is through aromatic use. Diffusing essential oils in your home will allow your children to reap the benefits of your favorite essential oils, and is one of the safest and simplest forms of application.

Dilution

Many parents have concerns about the topical use of essential oils with children because of their sensitive skin. The best way to protect a child's delicate skin when using essential oils topically is to dilute before application. Diluting an essential oil with a carrier oil like dōTERRA Fractionated Coconut Oil before applying it to your child's skin will help reduce the risk of sensitivity.



Sensitivity testing

It is usually a good idea to do a sensitivity test on your child when trying a new oil, to ensure that it does not cause any irritation. To perform a sensitivity test, simply dilute the oil that you want to use, apply it to an inconspicuous spot on your child's skin (the feet are usually the best place because that is where the skin is thickest), and observe the spot over the course of a few hours. This will give you the chance to see how your child's skin reacts to that particular oil.

Avoid sensitive areas

In addition to sensitivity testing, you can help your child avoid irritation or sensitivity when it comes to using essential oils by avoiding application in any sensitive areas. As mentioned, any application of essential oils on your children should always be supervised—with your younger children, you should be the one to apply the oils; with older children, you should always be present during application.

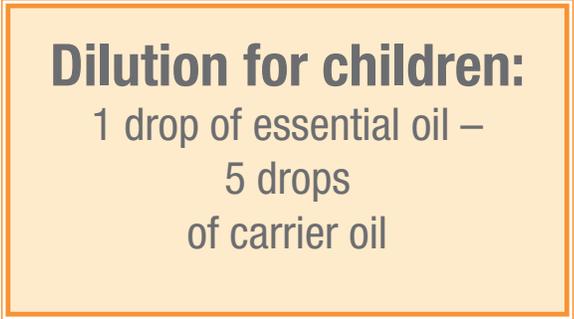
When applying essential oils topically on children, there are a few areas that should be avoided to help prevent sensitivity:

- Eyes
- Skin around the eyes
- Inner ears
- Broken, injured, or damaged skin
- Inner nose

All of these areas of the body tend to have more sensitive skin, and should be avoided when applying oils topically. Remember, a child's skin is even more delicate than an adult's, so application methods will always be a little different when it comes to using essential oils with children.

Sunlight exposure

Some essential oils, particularly citrus oils, can cause sunlight sensitivity if the user is exposed to sunlight after applying the oil on the skin. The risk for sunlight sensitivity is especially prevalent for children, because they tend to spend a lot of time outside. Before topically applying essential oils to your children, it is wise to consider first how much time your child will be spending in the sun over the next 12 hours, and second, whether or not the oil you are applying includes a caution for potential sunlight sensitivity. As mentioned, it is typically the citrus oils that present a risk for sunlight sensitivity; however, parents must always read essential oil labels to see if an oil comes with a warning about sunlight exposure. When an essential oil or essential oil product contains a sunlight sensitivity warning, it is best to avoid sunlight and UV rays for up to 12 hours after the product is applied.



Dilution for children:
1 drop of essential oil –
5 drops
of carrier oil



**Essential oils that could
pose a risk for sunlight
sensitivity:**

Bergamot
Grapefruit
Lemon
Lime
Tangerine
Wild Orange

Essential oil storage

One of the best ways to ensure safe use of essential oils with your little ones is to practice safe storage habits—always keep your essential oils and essential oil products out of the reach of children. Kids do not understand how powerful and potent essential oils are, or how important it is to follow dosage guidelines. By keeping your essential oil collection in a place where it cannot be accessed by your children, you will help ensure their safety.

Remember, essential oils should not be stored in direct sunlight or anywhere they will be exposed to heat, as this can damage the delicate chemical profile of the oils and even detract from their benefits. Always make sure that an essential oil diffuser is placed in a safe area where children will not be overexposed to an oil and cannot reach the diffuser. While it might seem convenient to keep essential oils out in the open, proper storage is a key component of successfully and safely using essential oils in a home with children.

Many essential oil bottles come with an orifice reducer, which allows only a small amount of oil to be released at a time. Parents will often remove this extra lid to make for easier pouring or diffusion of essential oils, but this orifice reducer can help to limit the amount of essential oils that your child can get if they do happen to find a bottle. While it is tempting to leave this lid off for convenience, it is best to make sure that the orifice reducer is on when storing your essential oils.



Educate yourself as a parent

As with anything you would give your child—food, medicine, treatments, topical products, etc.—the greatest way to safely use essential oils on or around your children is to educate yourself as a parent. If you are new to essential oils, educate yourself about how they work, best practices, and safety guidelines. Once you have learned how to properly use essential oils yourself, you'll be better equipped to share the benefits of essential oils with your entire family—including your children.

While learning about and staying up to date with safe essential oil application methods is a major part of responsibly protecting your children, it is also important that parents always carefully read warnings, labels, cautions, and distributor instructions before using essential oils on their children. By combining your essential oil knowledge with safety guidelines given by the manufacturer, you can give your child a safe, enjoyable essential oil experience.



Consult with a medical professional

Consulting with a healthcare professional before using essential oils is a safety guideline that applies to both parents and children. This rule is even more important if there are specific health concerns that apply to the individual planning to use essential oils. Each person has a different health history, and specific health conditions may change the way that you use essential oils. By consulting with your child's physician before using essential oils around your child, you can be prepared for any special conditions that may change how you use the oils in your home.

By following these general safety guidelines, and any other recommendations from the essential oil distributor, or suggestions from your physician, you can enjoy the safe use of essential oils around your children. Remember, as the parent, you set the example for your children when it comes to safe and proper use of essential oils in the home.



CHAPTER 3 Uses and Applications

Now that you know that essential oils are in fact safe to use with children, and have educated yourself about the safety guidelines, it is time to learn about some of the best essential application methods for children. While children can enjoy essential oils in many of the same ways as adults (with proper dilution and dosage), there are many essential oil usage methods that are unique to children. Here are some of the top essential oil uses for kids and families:



Arborvitae

Before your next family hike, dilute Arborvitae oil and apply to the wrists and ankles to help repel insects naturally.



Basil

During homework time, diffuse Basil oil in your child's study area to promote a sense of focus for studying, reading, or completing other tasks that require mental clarity.



Cedarwood

Cedarwood oil holds relaxing properties that can soothe the body and mind. When your child wakes up scared in the middle of the night, dilute Cedarwood and apply to the bottoms of the feet to help them return to a peaceful feeling.



Cilantro

Dilute Cilantro oil and apply to your child's fingernails and toenails to keep them looking clean and healthy.



Clary Sage

Before your child goes to bed, apply one drop of Clary Sage oil to their pillowcase to help them prepare for a restful night of sleep.



Coriander

The fresh, green aroma of Coriander oil makes it both relaxing and stimulating. When your child is working on homework or an important project, diffuse Coriander in an essential oil diffuser nearby.



Eucalyptus

To promote feelings of clear breathing and open airways for your child, dilute Eucalyptus oil and apply it topically to your child's chest. As your child breathes deeply, the oil will provide an invigorating vapor.



Ginger

During a long car ride or road trip, diffuse Ginger oil in the car, or place a drop of Ginger in your child's palm and have them inhale the aroma.



Grapefruit

If you have a teenager who is struggling with skin imperfections, add a drop of Grapefruit oil to their facial cleanser or moisturizer to help improve the appearance of blemishes. (Avoid sunlight or UV rays for up to 12 hours after application.)



Lavender

Add Lavender oil to your child's bath, or dilute and massage on your little one's abdomen to promote calming and soothing feelings.



Marjoram

Harness the calming properties of Marjoram by applying diluted Marjoram oil to a fussy child's feet before their nap.



Peppermint

When your child feels overheated, add a drop of Peppermint oil to a cold water compress, or to a cold foot bath to help them cool down.



Sandalwood

Help promote relaxation and reduce stress by adding one drop of Sandalwood oil (Indian or Hawaiian) to your child's evening bath.



Tea Tree (Melaleuca)

To help with occasional skin irritations, dilute Tea Tree oil and apply to your child's affected areas.



Vetiver

When your child is having a rough day, dilute Vetiver oil and apply to the child's neck and bottom of the feet to help promote calm feelings.

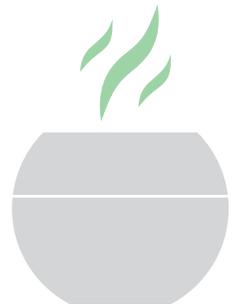


Wintergreen

Whether your child plays soccer, football, lacrosse, hockey, or any other sport, you can keep the unpleasant odor of their gear at bay by putting a few drops of Wintergreen oil on a cotton ball and placing it in their practice bag.

Aromatic use

In addition to the essential oil uses designed for children listed above, one of the simplest and safest ways to help your children experience the benefits of essential oils is through aromatic use. By diffusing essential oils in your home, you can create an invigorating, calming, relaxing, or uplifting atmosphere for your children. Diffusing essential oils can also help purify the air in your home when you want to dispel unwanted odors or produce a clean, fresh scent. Diffusing essential oils in an essential oil diffuser is a simple way for the entire family to experience the powerful benefits of essential oils, without worrying about dosage or dilution.



CHAPTER

Getting Your Children to Use Essential Oils

It is no secret that children can be picky. Whether your child is particular when it comes to tastes, smells, or even their routine, this can make it difficult for them to enjoy the benefits of essential oils in the same way that adults do. Luckily, there are a few fun ways that you can get your children to enjoy essential oils, no matter their personal preferences.

Essential oil DIYs

Another way to use essential oils with your children is by getting creative with essential oil do-it-yourself projects at home. You can use essential oils for crafts, to create aromatic jewelry, during bath time, and more.

These essential oil confetti bath bombs provide a fun way for your children to enjoy the benefits of essential oils during bath time:

dōTERRA® Essential Oil Confetti Bath Bombs

Ingredients

1 cup baking soda
½ cup cornstarch
1 cup citric acid
½ cup dōTERRA Fractionated Coconut Oil
10 drops of your essential oil of choice
Sprinkles
Food coloring
Silicone mold

Directions

1. Place citric acid, baking soda, cornstarch, and Fractionated Coconut Oil into bowl. (Note: citric acid can be found in most supermarkets in the canning section.)

2. Add your essential oil of choice. Oils like Lavender, Wild Orange, Clary Sage, and dōTERRA blends like Citrus Bliss® or dōTERRA Serenity® work well.
3. Mix well until soft dough is formed. It should have the consistency of mildly-damp sand and should hold together when pressed. If mixture is too wet, add baking soda and cornstarch.
4. Add food coloring and mix until color is evenly distributed.
5. Press mixture firmly into silicone mold and sprinkle the top with your favorite party sprinkles. Let dry for 24 hours before removing from mold. (If you don't have a silicone mold, cupcake liners will also work).
6. Bath bombs are ready to use! Simply drop in tub full of water and allow to dissolve completely.

There are countless ways for the entire family to enjoy the benefits of essential oils. Once you educate yourself as a parent about the best practices and important safety guidelines, you can help promote wellness in your family by incorporating the use of essential oils into your family's daily routine and lifestyle. No matter how you choose to use essential oils, always remember to be an example of safe, responsible use so that your children can come to love essential oils and benefit from them as much as possible.