

## Talking Points for the booklet

# Looking after your child's skin and treating skin infections

### Purpose

This booklet contains some general information about first aid for skin infections and hand washing as well as specific information about different types of skin problems and infections.

Each section contains first aid information as well as signs showing when a child needs to go to the doctor.

This booklet is designed to be used by health professionals with parents/caregivers and whānau to acknowledge their existing knowledge and skills, build new knowledge and review first aid and hand washing activities.

### Scenario 1: Talking to a parent/caregiver or whānau about a specific skin problem (first visit with the booklet)

1. Acknowledge that the parent/caregiver or whānau have asked you to visit because one of their children has a problem with their skin. Acknowledge that it is great they have recognised that their child has a skin problem and asked for help.
2. Show the parent/caregiver or whānau the booklet and explain the purpose of the booklet is to give whānau information about different skin problems and infections and how to treat them. The pictures are to help whānau recognise the different skin infections.
3. Explain to the parent/caregiver or whānau that the booklet is arranged in sections. Pages 2 and 3 give information and instructions on how to prevent skin infections and what to do if you get a skin infection. Pages 4 and 5 have picture-based instructions on how to prepare for a visit to the doctor and wash hands properly.
4. Explain that from page 6 onwards there is information and advice about specific skin problems. Show them that the first page has pictures and information about a skin problem and the second page has pictures and information about what to do if it gets worse. Use the information on the page relevant to the parent/child as an example (or use boils on pages 6 and 7 as an example). Pronounce any unfamiliar terms carefully and point to the word on the page.

5. Ask the parent/caregiver or whānau what it is that is worrying them about their child's skin. If the child is there ask to see what the skin looks like. Ask the parent/caregiver/child or whānau how long the child has had the skin condition.
6. Ask them what skin problem their child has. If they don't know, use the booklet to show them pictures of the condition and compare these to the child's skin. Reinforce what the skin condition is, using the description. For example, if the child has boils, refer to page 6 and go through the description.
7. Use the photos in the booklet to work out whether the child requires medical attention or if the condition can be treated at home. If, for example, the child has an infected boil, use the information on page 7 to show how the boil may now have become an abscess.
8. If the child's skin doesn't require medical attention, ask the parent/caregiver or whānau what they are currently doing to treat the skin condition. Ask them if they have treated this type of infection before and what they remember doing. Acknowledge what they are doing and make additional suggestions if relevant.
9. Use the booklet to reinforce the things they are doing and add any actions. For example, if the child has boils, refer to the information at the bottom of page 6.
10. If the child is not present, then ask them to describe to you what the skin condition looks like. Go through the booklet with the parent/caregiver or whānau until you find the right photo.
11. Talk about cleaning the skin. Use the shower, bath or basin to demonstrate this or get the parent/caregiver and whānau to show what they do. Check what first aid supplies the whānau have. Add any additional information where relevant.
12. If relevant (in terms of skin conditions), talk about how household bleach that is already used in the home could be added to water (e.g. Janola) and discuss or demonstrate quantities.

13. If relevant, use the information in the booklet to show that the child now needs to see a doctor or nurse. Refer to the information in the booklet that the doctor or nurse will probably give the child a prescription for antibiotics or cream. Ask the whānau what they know about taking antibiotics. Acknowledge what they know and add any relevant information so that the whānau is aware of the importance of taking all of the antibiotics, even if the skin looks better.
14. Help the parent/caregiver or whānau prepare for the doctor or nurse by discussing questions the whānau are likely to be asked. Look at page 4 of the booklet to see if they have any of these questions. Ask the parent/caregiver or whānau what other questions they have for the doctor or nurse and, if they would like it, write these down. Make sure there is a question about how long any antibiotics will need to be taken for.
15. Tell the parent/caregiver or whānau that the doctor or nurse will talk to them about how they need to wash the skin every day and change the dressing. Go through the information at the bottom of page 3 in the booklet and reinforce with the diagram on the back page of the booklet.
16. Demonstrate to the parent/caregiver or whānau how to cover the infection and talk about the types of covering and dressings they could use.
17. Ask the parent/caregiver or whānau what they know about preventing skin infections coming back and preventing the infection spreading to members of the whānau. Acknowledge any measures they are taking and refer to the information at the top of page 2 and on page 5 in the booklet. Emphasise the importance of hand washing and drying for the child and also for the parent if they are giving the child first aid.
18. If relevant, discuss the child taking time off from kura or kōhanga while they are infectious. For example, if the child has boils, refer to the information at the bottom of page 7 in the booklet.
19. Write down any additional instructions on the relevant page in the booklet and leave it with the parent/caregiver or whānau to refer to.