

# Cuts, scratches and grazes



## What to do

- Clean and check the area every day.
- Wash with warm water.
- Cover with a plaster or bandage – try to use things that won't stick to the cut, scratch or graze.
- Go to the doctor if it is a deep cut or it won't stop bleeding. Your child may need stitches.

### How do cuts, scratches and grazes get infected?

Bad bacteria (germs) gets into the wound.

## Time off from kura or school

If infected, at least one day after treatment has started, or check with your doctor or public health nurse. Cover infected skin with a plaster or bandage.

## What to do if the cut, scratch or graze gets worse

Go to the doctor if any of these things happen:

- the area around the cut, scratch or graze gets red, swollen or painful
- there is pus
- red lines on the skin spread out from the infected area
- your child feels unwell or has a fever

Your child may have a serious skin infection such as cellulitis. Your child may need blood tests and antibiotics.



It is important for your child to take the antibiotics every day until they are finished, even if the infection seems to have cleared up. The antibiotics need to keep killing the infection in the body after the skin has healed.