

Talking Points for the booklet

Looking after your child's skin and treating skin infections

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 2: Follow up after medical attention. Second or subsequent visits

1. Acknowledge that the parent/caregiver or whānau has done the right thing in taking the child to see a doctor or nurse about their skin condition. Explain that this is just a follow up visit to see how they are getting on with the treatment and to answer any questions they have.
2. Ask the whānau to get their booklet out and find the part which has information about the relevant skin problem. Use this as an opportunity to revisit and reinforce vocabulary e.g. abscess (you say ab-ses). Ask them if they used the booklet in their decision and ask them what made them decide to take the child to the doctor.
3. Ask the whānau how the doctor or nurse's appointment went, what advice and medicine they were given, and if they have any questions.
4. Ask the whānau if they think the child's skin is getting better since they have been taking medicine. Ask them to describe how the child's skin has changed and use the pictures in the booklet to help with this. If possible, check the child's skin.
5. Ask to look at the medicine and talk about how the child has been taking it to confirm that the child has been taking it as prescribed. Ask if the child had any problems with the medicine and acknowledge the good job the whānau have been doing to get their child to take the medicine. Discuss why it is important to take medicine until it is finished, even once skin has healed.
6. Ask the whānau what the doctor or nurse said about how they should be treating the child's skin at home. Reinforce this by going to the appropriate page in the booklet and going through the 'what to do' information. For example, if the child has boils, go through the information at the bottom of page 6.

7. If you think the skin isn't looking better or if the whānau doesn't think the skin is improving then refer to the appropriate page in the booklet and discuss what they should do if the skin problem gets worse.
8. If the infection is healing, talk to the whānau about preventing skin infections from coming back. Ask them what they are currently doing to prevent re-infection and to prevent the infection spreading to other members of the whānau. Acknowledge any measures they are taking and suggest other actions they could take – referring to the booklet where possible.
9. If relevant, refer to the general information at the top of page 2 and the specific instructions on hand washing on page 5. This is important for the whānau as well, as they are changing dressings.
10. Ask the whānau about materials they have available for dressing the skin and discuss the frequency of changing the dressing.