

## Talking Points for the poster

# Skin problems in children

This poster is designed to be used by health professionals with children at schools, kura or kōhanga to build knowledge about a range of skin problems and skin infections and what to do to help treat these problems. The poster can also be used with whānau to build knowledge.

### Scenario 3: Keeping skin healthy and preventing skin infections

1. Ask children what they do to keep their skin healthy and why they do that. Explain or reinforce the importance of eating good food and getting plenty of sleep, proper hand washing, keeping nails short, cleaning, covering and checking skin problems daily.
2. Ask children if they know why children get skin problems or infections so often. Discuss the causes of skin infections such as the sorts of injuries children get from playing, insect bites, catching infections from each other. Talk about infections sometimes caused by germs getting into broken or open skin (like a scratch or insect bite). If eczema is discussed, emphasise that eczema is not infectious, but sometimes eczema can become infected like other broken skin.
3. Explain that the poster is made up of rows. Each row has important information about each skin problem – show that the rows are different colours to help separate one row from the next. Ask if any of the children would like to read out the headings across the top row (Problem, Early signs, etc). Pick a skin problem of interest to the children and work through the information in the row – referring back to the headings in the top row as you go (e.g. The “Early signs” of a boil look like this photo...). This helps children understand the layout of the poster using the headings, and think about the purpose of the information.
4. Children could practice saying the new words (like cellulitis). Show the children how to spell and pronounce the word by writing it correctly and phonetically on any whiteboard, etc. For example, show that for cellulitis you say sel-u-ly-tis.
5. Ask the children what they usually do when they first notice a skin problem. Reinforce good actions and suggest others as relevant. Discuss who they need to talk to about a skin problem and why.

6. Talk about telling an adult immediately if their skin won't stop bleeding or the problem is near the eye.
7. Refer to the third column in the poster which explains what needs to be done for that skin problem. Reinforce the importance of cleaning and covering the area every day and proper hand washing and drying.
8. Talk about the signs that the skin has become infected or got worse (pus, red around the edges, growing, swollen, painful). Talk about going to the doctor or school nurse if the skin is infected. Talk about an infection getting bigger than a 10 cent piece. Show the children a 10 cent piece. Discuss how small it is. Hold up a 10 cent piece against the skin so they can see what size area you are talking about.
9. Look at the last two columns of the poster. Ask the children if they know how skin problems are spread (a review of some of the causes of skin problems discussed in question 2). Use the poster to explain how an infection is spread and the general guide for time off from school or kura.
10. Invite the children to have a closer look at the poster. Ask them how they could use the information in the poster.
11. Ask them where in the school would be a good place for the poster to be put on the wall.