



## SORE THROAT

Sore throat is a common complaint of children. The child may also have fever, headache, or earache with the sore throat. A sore throat may be caused by a virus or bacteria. Dry air, or talking and shouting too much can also cause a dry, irritated throat.

The pain of a sore throat may be decreased by using a cool-mist humidifier in the room where the child is sleeping. Your child's doctor may suggest a pain reliever, such as acetaminophen, or a cold medication. Older children may gargle with warm salt water (one teaspoon salt in one cup warm water).

Strep throat is a sore throat caused by a bacterial infection. It usually causes a very sore throat and fever. It may also cause a stomachache, rash, or just a general "sick" feeling.

Your child's doctor can check for strep throat. It must be treated with antibiotics for 7-10 days. Your child may feel better after taking medicine for two or three days, but you should continue to give the medicine until all the medicine is gone.

If strep throat is not treated with the correct medicine, it can lead to more serious diseases such as rheumatic or scarlet fever, or heart problems.

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Your child’s doctor can check for strep throat. It must be treated with antibiotics for 7-10 days. Your child may feel better after taking medicine for two or three days, but you should continue to give the medicine until all the medicine is gone.

If strep throat is not cured it can lead to more serious diseases. Taking all the medicine is the only way to cure strep throat.

Samantha Knapp, RN,BSN,CSN  
School Nurse

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