



ROLE-PLAY ACTIVITY: ASSESSING A CHILD FOR ILLNESS

Step 1: This is a role playing exercise that helps assess how sick a child is

Step 2: Imagine you are a classroom teacher and then read Crystal's Story

Step 3: You now need to determine how sick Crystal is and how to care for her.

(You will need one person from your agency to “act” as Crystal.) You will play a game of Twenty Questions to find out the information. Your questions should search for:

- Information about the child's symptoms and behavior. You must specify *who* would you ask and *what* you would ask them, for example, "I want to ask Crystal, 'What's bothering you - your stomach, your head, your throat...?'"
- Observations of the child, for example, "I want to observe Crystal's affect."

Step 4: Refer to System Record Handout

Step 5: As you ask for information and make observations, you should fill in Crystal's Symptom Record.

Step 6: After you have asked Crystal 20 question that's all the information that you could obtain because Crystal begins to cry and no longer wants to answer any more questions.

Step 7: Refer to Handout: When a Child Is Too Sick to Attend.

This is a helpful guideline that your agency/foster parents can use to determine when a child is too sick to attend. (school, church, activities)

Step 8: Complete the Test Your Knowledge Questions

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Crystal is too sick to stay in the program for the rest of the day?
What questions were most helpful in determining that?
2. Under what circumstances might you want to call a health care professional?
What would you say?
3. How would you care for Crystal until she is able to see a health care professional?
4. What would you do to minimize the spread of Crystal's illness to other children and staff?
5. Why is it helpful to document the child's symptoms and your actions in a Symptom Record?

Verification of Completion	
Participants Signature:	Date:
Supervisor's Signature:	Date:

CRYSTAL'S STORY



SCENARIO: Crystal is a four-and-a-half year old who is usually very active and cheerful. You notice she is quieter than usual when you arrive for a visit. During the visit, she complains, "I don't feel good."

USEFUL INFORMATION FROM:

PARENTS:

Crystal complained of a stomach ache last night.
Crystal didn't eat much breakfast this morning.
Crystal's brother is home sick with fever, vomiting, and diarrhea.
Crystal was clingy and whiny this morning.
Crystal just wanted to play quietly this morning.

CRYSTAL:

My tummy hurts.
My head hurts.
I have diarrhea.
I feel like I'm going to throw up.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS OF CRYSTAL:

General appearance-sad, uncomfortable, no appetite, low activity level
Breathing-normal
Skin-pale, cold, and clammy
Eyes/nose/ears/mouth-eyes glassy
Odors-breath smells fruity, stool smells foul
Temperature--101 degrees F.

SYMPTOM RECORD

Child's Name _____ Date _____

Main Symptom _____

When it began _____ How long it has lasted _____

How much _____ How often _____

Staying constant, getting better or worse? _____

OTHER SYMPTOMS: Complaints _____

General Appearance (e.g., comfort, mood, behavior, activity level, appetite)

CIRCLE THE SYMPTOMS:

Breathing: coughing wheezing breathing fast difficulty breathing other _____

Skin: pale flushed rash sores swelling bruises itchiness other _____

Vomiting: (# times) _____ **Diarrhea** (# times) _____ **Urine** _____

Eyes: pink/red watery discharge crusty swollen other _____

Nose: congested runny other _____

Ears: pulling at ears discharge other _____

Mouth: sores drooling difficulty swallowing other _____

Odors: (e.g., breath, stool) _____

Temperature: _____

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE: Comfort _____ Rest _____

Liquids (name, amount, time) _____ Food (name, amount, time) _____

Medications (name, amount, time) _____

Who was called and when: (e.g., Pediatrician, CPA/CCI Case Manager, DFCS Case Manager, Birth Parents)

