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### Childhood scrapes: Treating your child's minor wounds

Having children means having to nurse the occasional wound and wipe away the tears that go with it. In addition to kissing the pain away, here are three steps to follow when tending to your child's minor wounds:

- **Clean** to wash away dirt and germs using mild soap and water. If necessary, stop the bleeding first by applying firm pressure to the wound with a sterile bandage or clean cloth. It's a good idea to clean the wound each day.
- **Treat** to help prevent infection by applying a thin layer of antibiotic ointment once to three times daily. The ointment helps keep the wound moist.
- **Protect** the wound with an adhesive bandage and keep it covered, even at night. Remember that a covered wound heals faster. Change the bandage if it becomes wet or dirty.

Watch for signs of infection, including discharge or pus from the wound, fever, increased pain, redness, swelling or warmth in the affected area. Take your child to a doctor if any of these signs appear. You should also seek medical attention if a cut is too big to be closed with a dressing.