

Many head injuries that happen in early childhood are minor. Head wounds may bleed easily and form large bumps. Bumps to the head may not be serious. Head injuries from falls, activities and violence may be serious. If head is bleeding, see "Bleeding".

If child *only* bumped head and does not have any other complaints or symptoms, see "Bruises".

With a head injury (*other than head bump*), always suspect neck injury as well. Do **NOT** move or twist the spine or neck. See "Neck & Back Injuries" for more information.

- Have child rest, lying flat.
- Keep child quiet & warm.

Is child vomiting?

Turn the head and body together to the side, keeping the head and neck in a straight line with the trunk.

Watch child closely. **DO NOT LEAVE CHILD ALONE.**

Are any of the following symptoms present:

- Unconsciousness?
- Seizure?
- Neck pain?
- Child is unable to respond to simple commands?
- Blood or watery fluid in the ears?
- Child is unable to move or feel arms or legs?
- Blood is flowing freely from the head?
- Child is sleepy or confused?
- Abnormal speech or behavior?


CALL EMS.

Look, listen & feel for breathing. If child stops breathing, see "CPR".

Give nothing by mouth. Contact responsible authority & parent/guardian.

Even if child was only briefly confused & seems fully recovered, contact responsible authority & parent/guardian. **URGE MEDICAL CARE.** Watch for delayed symptoms.