



## HEAD INJURY

Accidental head collisions are common in active children. These events cause a great deal of worry but usually cause little harm. An impressive area of red or purple swelling frequently results but does **not** necessarily indicate serious injury.

Many children following head trauma:

- 1) Cry immediately, but should become consolable in 5-10 minutes.
- 2) May vomit at least once. Do not feed or expect the child to eat for an hour after the injury. Then try sips of clear liquids.
- 3) Might become drowsy, especially if crying was intense or prolonged. Let your child sleep, but awaken every 2 hours for the next 6 hours.
- 4) Will complain of headache. Give acetaminophen and apply ice as needed.

Any child who immediately loses consciousness (passes out) or shows any of the following signs should be seen by a doctor:

- 1) Can't be awakened every two hours.
- 2) Vomits forcefully more than 2 times.
- 3) Eyes become crossed or the pupils become unequal in size.
- 4) Talks funny or seems confused.
- 5) Has severe headaches.
- 6) Develops weakness of arms or legs.
- 7) Experiences a seizure.

