



Both of these girls are ill.

But only one of them will be helped by antibiotics.

Why? Because antibiotics are only effective against bacterial infections, NOT the viral infections that are most often the cause of your child's cold and flu symptoms. Your doctor can determine what kind of infection is present. Improper use of these powerful drugs can lead to more antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria, which will make it more difficult for your doctor to help when antibiotics really are needed. Used wisely, antibiotics work. Take our quiz to learn more, visit www.antibiotics-info.org and ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.



Take the Antibiotic Quiz

- 1** Bacteria, not people, become resistant to antibiotics. [True] [False]

It's a common misconception that taking too many antibiotics or not taking them properly can make you resistant to antibiotics. It's the bacteria that become resistant to antibiotics by repeated exposure. Susceptible bacteria are destroyed by antibiotics, but resistant bacteria survive and multiply.
- 2** Resistant bacteria can be passed from person to person. [True] [False]

Bacteria that have become resistant to certain antibiotics can very easily be passed from person to person, either through direct contact or through the air via a cough or sneeze. This is especially true in settings where children have prolonged contact with one another, such as daycare.
- 3** When my child has cold symptoms, I should give her some of the antibiotics left over from her last ear infection. [True] [False]

Only your doctor can determine whether or not your child has a condition, such as an ear or sinus infection, that requires an antibiotic. The symptoms may be the same, but the diagnosis very different. Besides, you should always finish your antibiotics—never use leftover antibiotics and never share medications!

Answers: True, True, False

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