Here are some examples to help decide if your child needs emergency care:

Emergency

Not an emergency

Breathing problems:

- respiratory distress (working hard to breathe or breathing faster than normal)
- · pale skin, whitish or blue lips
- asthma or wheezing and not responding to prescribed medications

Breathing problems:

- nasal congestion and cough (even if it interrupts sleep)
- · symptoms of the 'common cold'
- mild asthma or wheezing that responds to usual puffers

Fever:

- in a child less than 3 months old
- with immune system problems or complex chronic health problems
- · and very sleepy or difficult to wake
- · for more than 5 days in a child any age

Fever:

- in healthy and vaccinated babies
- · in children who appear generally well



Vomiting or diarrhea:

- in a child less than 3 months old
- · repeated vomiting and unable to keep liquids down
- vomiting or diarrhea containing large amount of blood
- · vomiting bright green
- dehydration with dry mouth or no urine for more than 12 hours

Vomiting or diarrhea:

- vomiting or diarrhea less than 3-4 times a day
- ongoing diarrhea after 'stomach flu' (this can last up to 2 weeks)

Injuries:

- head injury with loss of consciousness (passing out) or confusion
- head injury with visible bump behind the ears, sides of the head, or back of the head
- head injury with visible swelling and the child is less than 3 months old
- fall more than 5 feet or 1.5 metres
- cuts with gaping edges or continuing to bleed despite direct pressure
- · burns that blister and are larger than a Loonie
- injury to arm or leg that looks crooked, causes inability to use the limb, or creates swelling that does not go down with ice and rest over 48 hours
- eye injuries
- · injury causing chest or stomach pain

Injuries:

- minor head injuries (with no loss of consciousness, no confusion and no vomiting)
- mild head injuries with normal behavior within 4 hours of injury and bumps (even large) to the forehead
- scrapes and bruises where the injured part can still be used
- · sun burns



Rashes:

 fever with a rash that looks like either blisters or bruises that don't turn white or fade when you push on them

Rashes:

- recurring rashes or skin problems
- rashes with cough and cold symptoms, if the child looks well
- mild hives that respond to antihistamines without difficulty breathing or throat/tongue swelling

Poisoning:

 if your child ingests a chemical, medication or poison, call the poison control centre at 1-800-567-8911. Come to emergency if directed by them

Poisoning:

 if your child ingests a chemical, medication or poison, call the poison control centre at 1-800-567-8911. Follow their instructions