

- Absence of breath sounds (movement of air)

Sore Throat

Frequent complaint of older children

Young children (unable to describe symptoms) may not complain even when highly inflamed

Often accompanied by refusal to take oral fluids or solids

Meningismus

Meningeal signs without infection of the meninges

Occurs with abrupt onset of fever

Accompanied by:

- Headache
- Pain and stiffness in the back and neck
- Presence of Kernig and Brudzinski signs

Subsides as body temperature decreases

Nursing Care Management

Assessment of the respiratory system follows the guidelines described in [Chapter 4](#) (for assessment of the ears, nose, mouth and throat, chest, and lungs). The assessment should include respiratory rate, depth and rhythm, heart rate, oxygenation, hydration status, body temperature, level of consciousness, activity level, and level of comfort. Special attention should also be given to the components and observations listed in [Box 21-2](#). A noninvasive pulse oximeter (oxygen saturation [SaO_2]) measurement should be performed on *all* children with a respiratory condition as part of the routine physical assessment. The nursing process in the care of the child