

- Did anyone tell you it was an allergic reaction, or did you decide for yourself?
- Has your child ever taken this medication, or a similar one, again? If yes, did your child experience the same problems?
- Have you told the physicians or nurses about your child's reaction or allergy?

### **Nursing Alert**

Information about allergic reactions to drugs or other products is essential. Failure to document a serious reaction places the child at risk if the agent is given.

### **Current Medications**

Inquire about current medications, including vitamins, antipyretics (especially aspirin), antibiotics, antihistamines, decongestants, nutritional supplements, or herbs and homeopathic medications. List all medications, including name, dose, schedule, duration, and reasons for use. Often parents are unaware of a medication's actual name. Whenever possible, ask the parents to bring the containers with them to the next visit, or ask for the name of the pharmacy and call for a list of all the child's recent prescription medications. However, this list will not include over-the-counter medications, which are important to know.

### **Immunizations**

A record of all immunizations is essential. As many parents are unaware of the exact name and date of each immunization, sources of information include the child's health care provider, school record, and the state's centralized immunization registry. All immunizations and "boosters" are listed, stating (1) the name of the specific disease, (2) the number of injections, (3) the dosage (sometimes lesser amounts are given if a reaction is anticipated), (4) the date when administered, and (5) the occurrence of any reaction following immunization. Children should be screened for contraindications and precautions before every vaccine is administered (see Immunizations, [Chapter 7](#)).