

for in the home because of increased exposure. Likewise, for children who were cared for at home before starting school, their infection rate increases when exposed to more children at school.

Parents should know the signs of respiratory complications and should notify a health professional if complications occur or the child does not improve within 2 or 3 days (Box 21-4).

#### **Box 21-4**

### **Early Evidence of Respiratory Complications**

Parents are instructed to notify the health professional if any of the following are noted:

- Refusal to eat
- Evidence of earache
- Respirations faster than 50 to 60 breaths/min
- Fever over 38.3° C (101° F)
- Listlessness
- Confusion
- Increasing irritability with or without fever
- Persistent cough for 2 days or more
- Wheezing
- Restlessness and poor sleep patterns

Modified from National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP): *Baby's first cold*, New York, 1989, Winthrop Consumer Products. Copies are available from NAPNAP, 20 Brace Road, Suite 200, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-2634; 856-857-9700; <http://www.napnap.org>.

## **Acute Infectious Pharyngitis**

Acute infectious pharyngitis can be caused by many bacteria or