diaphragmatic expansion.

Children, especially infants, with ineffectual cough or difficulty handling secretions may require suctioning to maintain a patent airway. A simple bulb suction syringe is usually sufficient for clearing the nares and nasopharynx of infants, but mechanical suction should be readily available if needed. A noninvasive suction device (nasal aspirator) may be used to suction the infant's nares without the danger of causing nasal trauma; the device may be connected to mechanical suction for best results. Older children can usually handle secretions without assistance. Chest percussion, postural drainage, and nebulized bronchodilator treatments may be prescribed depending on the child's condition. However, there is a lack of empirical support about the benefit of chest percussion in children with community-acquired pneumonia. For the child being cared for at home, the nurse educates the parent regarding observation for worsening symptoms, antibiotic and antipyretic administration, and encouragement of oral fluid intake. If the child is ill, solid foods may be rejected; fluid intake is encouraged until the child feels well enough to eat solids. Return to school or daycare is usually permitted according to the type of pneumonia, severity of illness, and practitioner recommendation. It should be emphasized that the infection may be transmitted to other children with close contact.

Other Infections of the Respiratory Tract

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is an acute respiratory tract infection caused by *B. pertussis,* which in the past primarily occurred in children younger than 4 years old who were not immunized. It is highly contagious and is particularly threatening in young infants, who have a higher morbidity and mortality rate. Complications in adolescents can include syncope, rib fractures, and pneumonia; whereas in younger children, seizures, pneumonia, intracranial bleeding, conjunctival bleeding, and death can occur (American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases and