Minor Open Wound

Description/Introduction

While you are babysitting, a child or infant may have a bleeding injury, such as a minor open wound. In an open wound, the surface of the skin is broken and you can see the blood clearly. Small cuts and scrapes are common among children and typically stop bleeding on their own after a few minutes.

What to Look For

- Cut or scrape
- Minor bleeding

Care

- Reassure the child or infant.
- Put on disposable gloves and place a sterile dressing on the wound.
- Apply direct pressure for a few minutes to control any bleeding.
- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water. If possible, rinse the wound for about 5 minutes with clean, running tap water.
- Apply an antibiotic ointment to a minor wound if the child or infant has no known allergies or sensitivities to it.
- Cover the wound with a sterile dressing and bandage or with an adhesive bandage to keep the wound moist and prevent drying.
- Discuss any care provided with the parents.