

# Health Services

## School Nurse

A registered school nurse is available at the Townshend School one-half day a week. The physical health of children plays a significant role in their ability to learn and benefit fully from the educational process. A wide variety of screenings are available which can help make sure your child maintains the best health possible.

## Vision and Hearing Screening

This annual screening exam is not meant to be a substitute for thorough eye or ear exams from health care providers. Parents will be notified if any problems are identified through the screening. A referral to the family physician or other health care specialist may be recommended.

## Immunizations

Vermont state law requires that all children enrolled in schools show evidence of adequate immunization appropriate to the child's age as specified by the Vermont Department of Health. The school nurse reviews all student records for evidence of adequate immunization. If a child is identified as not having met the state requirements, the parent will be notified and immunization will be required. Children may be exempt from immunization requirements for medical, religious or moral reasons. The parent or legal guardian must sign the required exemption form so that it may be added to the child's school health record.

# Health Related Issues

## Medication Administration:

If it is necessary for your child to receive medication during school hours the following requirements must be met:

### Prescription medication:

- Written orders from a physician detailing the name of the student, name of the medication, dosage, time and reason for giving the medication must be on file in the nurse's office and renewed annually.
- Parent permission in writing for the nurse to dispense the medication.\*
- Medication must be in a container labeled by the pharmacy.
- All medication must be kept in the locked closet in the nurse's office.

### Non-Prescription Medication:

- Administered only after a permission form has been signed by the child's parent or guardian.\* Medication must be in a labeled container and kept in the nurse's locked closet.

\*Permission forms are available in the back of this handbook and at the school office.

# Head Lice

Head lice can be a problem wherever children gather. The following are recommendations, which you may find helpful in the prevention and early identification of head lice:

1. Check your child's hair and scalp at least once a week. Head lice and their eggs (called nits) are most easily found at the nape of the neck and behind the ears.
2. If your child complains of persistent itching of the scalp, head lice should be suspected and the hair carefully examined.
3. Teach your child to never share hats, scarves, brushes or combs.
4. To help prevent the spread of lice, contact the school nurse if your child has head lice or if you suspect that they may have head lice.
5. Children with untreated head lice will not be allowed to attend school. Feel free to ask your school nurse for information about the treatment of head lice.