

Supplementary file 5. List of codes and categories

Content area a) and b): Views on, and experiences with managing a child with fever

Theme	Subtheme • Code
Views on fever	Causes of fever <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteria or viruses cause fever • Reaction of the body • Infection
	Fever has a function, but ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High fever is alarming • Long duration of fever is alarming • Accompanying symptoms alarm
	Paying extra attention to the child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed behaviour is alarming • Drinking must be good • Urinating must be good
Management of a febrile child	Mixed thoughts about paracetamol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should always be given in case of fever • Only needed when the child suffers • It suppresses the function of the fever
	Methods to lower the temperature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using paracetamol • Using homeopathic medicine • Undressing the child • Giving a cold shower/cold wipes
Thoughts about antibiotics	Only when really necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of resistance of the body • Trust in function of the body • Needed in specific situations • It depends on the doctor
Help-seeking behaviour	Age of child is important <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babies aren't able to express themselves
	Role of experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with earlier episodes • Having multiple children • Social network
	Trust in parental intuition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking decisions on intuition
	Circumstances of fever <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long duration of fever • High fever • Fever in combination with other symptoms
	Insecurity about timing and options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child always ill at Fridaynight • When and who to call?
Thoughts about health care	Feeling reassured after consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust in doctor • I have done everything needed
	Feeling not to be taken seriously <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctors don't really listen • Child doesn't get a diagnosis
	Threshold to seek medical help during out of hours service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good doctor-patient relationship with GP • Fear of rejection • Child always ill at Fridaynight

Content area c): Information seeking

Theme	Subtheme • Code
Source of searched information	Internet as most common resource to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look up the symptoms • Search where to go for medical help • Search when to seek medical help • Read experience from other parents
	Asking for advice to surroundings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the ill child • Possible diagnosis
Appreciation of searched information	Internet is as easily accessible but not always helpful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much information • Too general information • Increases anxiety and concerns • Contains inconsistent information
	Leaflets are not easy to reread <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not easy to find when really needed
Delivery of needed information	Prefer a doctor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility to ask questions • More personal
	Internet is easy but confusing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before calling the doctor
	Written material with audiovisual support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading information most preferred • Videos and pictures for better understanding
Content of needed information	Needing guidance in care for the child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness management • Referral to appropriate services • Timing to seek medical attention
	Needing information about children's illness
Quality criteria of needed information	Reliability of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional endorsement
	Consistent information
	Easy accessibility of information