

Meningitis



Role play cards: **Meningitis**

What's happening?

A family is sitting in their lounge watching TV together. The older of the two siblings has been complaining of flu-like symptoms all day.

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Ideas for staging and props

- Arrange some chairs to resemble a sofa and armchair.
- Turn the lights off at the start of the role-play and turn them on during the scene.

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Older sibling with symptoms

You're on a chair watching TV with your parent. You feel very unwell. You feel hot and then cold. You've got a real headache, and you feel sore all over.

You don't like the light on in the room, so you ask your parent to turn it off. If your sibling turns the light back on, act out that you find it really uncomfortable. Your neck is very stiff so you can't really move your head.

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Younger sibling – helper

You've finished your homework and go downstairs to watch television with your family. They are sitting in the dark, so you turn the light on when you enter the room.

Your older sibling is cross with you – the light is hurting their eyes and they have a really bad headache.

You sit down but keep looking at your sibling. They really look unwell and keep rubbing their neck and shielding their eyes. You go to help.

How you are feeling: *You are anxious. You think your sibling is very unwell but are worried no-one will listen to you. You must try hard to convince your family that this is a serious situation and that you know what to do.*

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Bystander – adult

You're watching TV with your eldest child. They have been feeling unwell all day and you've been looking after them. They tell you the light is hurting their eyes so you turn out the main light.

When your youngest child comes in they turn the light on. They think their sibling's condition could be something serious. You tell the younger child that they're overreacting – it's just a bug that's going around right now. You're sure your eldest will be OK in a day or so.

How you are feeling: *Tired and slightly irritated with your younger child who can be overly sensitive and panicky. You're an experienced parent who has dealt with lots of bouts of flu before. These things normally pass quickly.*