

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

- 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.

Roles

- Below are a range of roles - in small groups, each choose a character to play. Ensure each person in the group has a chance to play the role of each character. Or, read through the scenario as a story.
- Spend time getting in and out of role.

Debrief

- Afterwards, spend some time discussing the story. You could think about:
 - What happened to the person with meningitis? What signs of meningitis did they show?
 - How did the helper help them?
 - What did the bystander do? What could they do in future to become a helper?

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Older sibling with symptoms

This person is on a chair watching TV with their parent. They feel very unwell. They feel hot and then cold. They've got a real headache, and they feel sore all over.

They don't like the light on in the room, so they ask their parent to turn it off. Their neck is very stiff so they can't really move their head. They are sure it is just the flu.

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Younger sibling – helper

This person has finished their homework and goes downstairs to watch television with their family. They are sitting in the dark, so they turn the light on when they enter the room.

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

They sit down but keep looking at their sibling. They really look unwell and keep rubbing their neck and shielding their eyes. They think it is worse than the flu. They tell their parent they think they should call 999. Even though their parent says there is no need for that, they call 999 anyway. "Better safe than sorry", they say.

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Bystander – parent

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

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

