After the Shot........

What to do if your child has discomfort

Your child may need extra love and care after getting shots. Many of the shots that protect children from serious diseases also can cause discomfort for a while. Here are answers to questions many parents have about the fussiness, fever, and pain their child may experience after they have been immunized.

My child has been fussy since getting the shot. What should I do?
After a vaccination, children may be fussy or cranky because of pain or fever. Follow your health care provider's instruction for giving pain or fever reducing medicine. ***Do not give aspirin.*** If the fussiness lasts for more than 24 hours, call your doctor or the nearest hospital emergency department.

My child's arm is swollen, hot, and red. What should I do?
There are several things you can do to help make your child more comfortable.
   •   Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the sore area, as needed for comfort.
   •   If there is increasing redness or tenderness after 24 hours, call your doctor or the nearest hospital emergency department.
   •   Follow your healthcare provider's instructions for giving pain or fever reducing medicine. ***Do not give aspirin.***

I think my child has a fever. What should I do?
Check your child's temperature to find out if there is a fever. An easy way to do this is by taking a temperature in the armpit using a digital thermometer. Here are some things you can do to help reduce the fever:
   •   Give your child plenty to drink.
   •   Dress your child lightly.
   •   Sponge your child in a few inches of lukewarm (not cold) bath water.
   •   Give fever or pain reducing medicine based on dosing instructions on the package. ***Do not give aspirin.*** Recheck your child's temperature after 1 hour. Continue to give the medicine for 1-3 days, as needed, based on the instructions on the medicine package.

My child seems really sick. Should I call the doctor?
If you are worried **at all** about how your child looks or feels, call your healthcare provider or the nearest emergency department!