

Block Text

You have fallen over in the playground and hurt your ankle. You go to the doctor and he takes an x-ray. It is broken. He puts it in plaster. He wants to give you some medicine to stop it hurting. He has two types of medicine and wants to test which one works best: medicine B or medicine A. The doctor wants you to take one of the medicines and tell him if it stops your ankle hurting.

If you want to help the doctor you can. If you do not want to help the doctor then that is OK too, and he will still give you medicine A to stop your ankle hurting.

If you do help the doctor, he will write your name on a piece of paper. He will put it in a hat with the names of lots of other children who have broken their ankles. You cannot choose which medicine you get. The medicine you get will depend on when your name comes out of the hat. The doctor will give you the medicine to take. You must swallow it. After a little while, tell the doctor if your ankle has stopped hurting. All the other children will do the same.

The medicine should stop your ankle hurting. It may not. It may even make you feel sick or sleepy. If it does make you feel ill you must tell the doctor or your parents. You can stop taking the medicine at any time.

So, there are good things and bad things that may happen if you help the doctor by taking the medicine. A good thing that could happen is that your ankle might stop hurting quicker and the doctor will know which medicine is best. If something bad happens, your parents can complain to the doctor or the doctor's boss. If the doctor does something wrong he will be told off and may have to pay you some money.

The doctor will write about which medicine is best, but no one will know that you took part or helped him.

If you want to know more about helping the doctor, ask your parents or the doctor.

Story

You have fallen over in the playground and hurt your ankle. You go to the doctor. He takes an x-ray. It is broken. He puts it in plaster. He wants to give you some medicine to stop it hurting. He has two medicines and wants to test which one works best. He wants you to help him in his test. So he gives you this story to explain things.

Tom and Jane were playing in the playground and they both fell over. They hurt their heads and went to see the doctor. The doctor took an x-ray and told them their ankles were broken. He put them in plaster. The doctor needed to give them medicine to stop their ankles hurting. The doctor was doing a test to find out which type of medicine was best - the type of medicine he usually used (medicine A) or a new medicine (medicine B). He asked Tom and Jane to help him with his test. He wanted them to take one of the medicines and tell him if it stopped their ankles hurting.

Tom and Jane wanted to know if they had to help him in his test. He said, "No, if you don't want to help me you don't have to. I will give you medicine A to stop your ankle hurting."

They thought about it. The doctor told them that the new medicine B might stop their heads hurting quicker. It would also help him know which medicine was best. They decided to help.

They did not get to choose which medicine they were given. The doctor wrote 'Tom' on one piece of paper and 'Jane' on another. He put the pieces of paper in a hat with the names of lots of other children who had hurt their ankles. First the doctor pulled out names of children who would get medicine B. Tom's name was pulled out of the hat and he got medicine B. Then all the other children were given medicine A. Jane got medicine A.

The doctor gave them their medicines. He said, "The medicine should stop your ankle hurting. It may not. It may even make you feel funny. It might make you feel sleepy or sick. If it does make you feel ill, you must tell your parents or me. After a little while I will check how you feel." Tom and Jane took their medicine. The doctor told them they could stop taking the medicine any time they wanted to.

Luckily both of their ankles began to stop hurting. Tom asked his Mum what they would have done if something bad had happened. She said that they could have complained to the doctor or the doctor's boss. If the doctor had done something wrong he would have been told off and he may have had to pay them some money.

The doctor told them he was asking all the children taking the medicine if it made their ankles stop hurting. Then he would decide which medicine was best.

Tom and Jane wanted to know if anyone else would find out that they had broken their ankles and been given medicine. The doctor told them that he would write about which medicine was best but no-one would know that they had taken part in his test.

You have the same decision to make as Tom and Jane. "Will you help the doctor test a new medicine? If you want to know more, ask the doctor or your parents."

Q & A

You have fallen over in the playground and hurt your ankle. You go to the doctor and he takes an x-ray. It is broken. He puts it in plaster. He wants to give you some medicine to stop it hurting. He has two types of medicine and wants to test which one works best. He wants you to help him in his test. So he gives you this letter:

What is the doctor testing?

The doctor wants to know which type of medicine will be best - the type of medicine he usually uses (Medicine A) or a new medicine (medicine B). He is asking you to take one of them and tell him if it stops your ankle hurting. Before he can give you some medicine he needs you understand what he is doing. This form will explain it. Please read it.

What is the doctor trying to do?

He is trying to find out if medicine B works better than medicine A.

Why does the doctor want you to help him?

Because you have broken your ankle and he is trying to find the best medicine to take the pain away.

Do you have to help the doctor?

No, if you don't want to help him you do not have to. He will still give you medicine A to stop your ankle hurting.

What if I do help the doctor?

The doctor will write your name on a piece of paper. He will put it in a hat with the names of lots of other children who have hurt their heads. The medicine you get will depend on when your name comes out of the hat. You cannot choose the medicine you get. The doctor will give you the medicine to take. You take the medicine. You tell the doctor if the medicine makes you feel better or worse.

What do I have to do?

Take the medicine the doctor gives you. After a little while, tell the doctor how you feel.

What if I change my mind about helping the doctor?

If you change your mind, you can stop taking the medicine at any time.

What might happen if I help the doctor?

The medicine should stop your ankle hurting. It may not. It may even make you feel funny. It might make you feel sleepy or feel sick. If it does make you feel ill, you must tell the doctor or your parents.

What good things could happen if I take part?

Your ankle might stop hurting quicker. The doctor will know which medicine is best.

What if something had happens?

Your parents will be able to complain to the doctor or the doctor's boss. If the doctor has done something wrong he will be told off and may have to pay you some money.

Will anyone know that I bumped my head and was given a tablet?

The doctor will write about which medicine is best, but no one will know that you took part in his test.

What will the doctor do when I tell him if I feel better?

He will ask lots of children the same question and will then decide which tablet is best.

Where can I find out more?

Ask the doctor or your parents.

QUESTIONNAIRE

We are doing a project to find out if children understand the forms used when doctors do tests, to see if they understand them. We would like you to help us.

It is up to you if you want to help us - you do not have to if you do not want to.

If you do want to help us, please read the pretend form on the other piece of paper, and then answer these questions about it.

Put a circle around the answer you think is correct.

1.	There is a chance that medicine B will make me feel sick or sleepy.	Yes	No	Don't know
2.	If something goes wrong, it can not be the doctor's fault.	Yes	No	Don't know
3.	The doctor will not treat me if I do not take part in his trial.	Yes	No	Don't know
4.	If I take part in the test, it will be luck which medicine I get.	Yes	No	Don't know
5.	The doctor will always give me the best medicine.	Yes	No	Don't know
6.	If something goes wrong the doctor could be told off.	Yes	No	Don't know
7.	If the doctor hurts me I cannot do anything about it.	Yes	No	Don't know
8.	If I take part in the test I can pick which medicine I take.	Yes	No	Don't know
9.	I have to take part in the doctor's test.	Yes	No	Don't know
10.	The doctor will treat me even if I don't take part in his test.	Yes	No	Don't know
11.	The doctor does not know what medicine B will do.	Yes	No..	Don't know
12.	Medicine B will definitely make me better.	Yes	No	Don't know

<i>Is English your first language? (The one you speak most at home)</i>	Yes	No	
<i>Did you find the form easy to read?</i>	Yes	No	
<i>Would you help the doctor in his test?</i>	Yes	No	Don't know

Do you have any other comments?

Please write them here: