



WISDOM FOR THE CAREGIVER

Illness (Of a Young Child)

Additional Wisdom for the Caregiver

- Read aloud the child's favorite books. (If the child is hospitalized, record a reading of the story on video or cassette. The child will feel comforted by hearing the familiar story and your voice.)
- Send cards. Encourage your children to create a card or a picture. If the sick child belongs to a club/group (scouts, Sunday school class, sports team), suggest that the members of the group make a banner or a giant card with a message from each person.
- Gifts produce lots of smiles! Select a game that can easily be played while the child is in bed. Rather than just giving the game to the child, offer to play the game with her or him "right now!" Other gifts that are always a hit; washable markers or crayons, doodle-pads, coloring books, cassettes, and puzzles.
- Send a small gift each day through the mail-a piece of gum, bookmark, balloon, package of plant seeds, miniature puzzle, lollipop, and so on.
- Fill a variety box with the materials for making drawings, collages, posters, and constructing small objects; scissors, crayons, paper, pins, material, buttons, needles, thread, magnifying glass, mirror, pieces of aluminum foil, flashlight, box of paper clips, clay, paper hole-punch, toothpicks, glue, gummed stars, stickers, and so on.
- Give a basket of fun: books, electronic games (like Quiz Whiz), an "Etch a Sketch," a "Magna Doodle," silly putty, jewelry-making kit, a craft from a craft store, books on tape, and other things that a child can do by him-or herself.

For additional wisdom: see pages 141-145 in **The Compassionate Congregation available through Amazon.com or via our website at www.WisdomoftheWounded.com*