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Case Study

Parents' Medical Education and Why Paediatrician Should Issue Medical Note

It is a question already on the agenda for long time that children's absence due to illness can be justified by educational institutions only with a medical note. At the same time, pediatricians are familiar with many situations when a child is not in a condition to go to the nursery, school but this condition does not require medical intervention. The current regulations (schools accept only a max. three-day parental note per year) unnecessarily "force" the children to visit the pediatrician, because only the doctors can give a medical note, which should include that the child can go to a community. This is the cause of high frequency of the doctor's visit, the underdevelopment of the primary care network and the enormous administrative work involved. In order to be able to decide visiting the doctor, the parent must have the appropriate on the child's illness. This knowledge would be based on the knowledge that enables the parents to determine when the need for medical intervention is justified and which status are sufficient when the usual procedures (handling fever, bed rest) are sufficient and in such a case the parent can justify absence of a child. In the frequency of visiting pediatrician, there is an important role of understanding and agreement among doctors and parents. On one side, there is a clear intention to pass on the responsibility; on the other hand, parents' health competence is primarily determined by their social status. Community practice requires some normative regulation of this issue.

Questions

1. What factors would you consider primarily important regarding this situation?
2. What knowledge and from where do parents help in making their decision?



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