UNIT: Decisions That Affect Children  LESSON: Health--Childhood Diseases
TIME: 4-5 days

COMPETENCIES:
List types, symptoms, possible effects, and immunizations related to common childhood diseases. (Options 2, 3, and 4)

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:
The health, safety, and well-being of children is important. Children who are in good health are able to develop properly intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

MOTIVATOR:
Read the following scenarios and ask the class how they would diagnose the child.

JAMES: James just turned one year old. He has a fever, cries constantly, and keeps pulling at his mouth and ear. (Possible problems: earache, cutting teeth, flu.)

POLLY: You just came home and found your little sister Polly in her bedroom coughing, sneezing, and wheezing. (Possible problems: she is allergic to something, she has stuck something up her nose and cannot breathe, she has a bad cold.)

There are many ways to diagnose a child's illnesses. Many times an illness can be deceptive, and an untrained eye cannot correctly identify the problem.

LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:

OPTION 1
BOOK: Doctor DeSoto, ISBN #0-590-41462-3, Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox

OPTION 2--Competency 1
BRAINSTORM: An illness in a young child can escalate from mild to severe in just a few hours. When in doubt, take the child to the doctor. Brainstorm with the class some symptoms of illnesses that are common in children. Some ideas for the teacher include:

- loss of appetite
- convulsions
- swelling
- dizziness
- unconscious
- difficulty in breathing
- flushed or pale skin
- unusual stools
- fever
- ear rubbing
- change in urine
- bleeding that cannot be stopped
- stiffness of body
- pain
- strange behavior
- hoarse voice
- coughing, sneezing, wheezing
- vomiting
- red eyes
- thick nasal discharge
- rash/rash
- sore or red throat

OPTION 3--Competency 1
CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES: Present information "CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES" and have the students complete the worksheet "Let's Play Doctor."

OPTION 4--Competency 1
IMMUNIZATIONS: Review the transparency "IMMUNIZATIONS" with the class.