

# What Happens When... You Get a Bad Cut or Scrape

## **If you get a cut or scrape you should:**

- Apply a clean, soft cloth against the wound
- Ask an adult for help
- Wash the wound with warm water and gentle soap
- You might apply an antibacterial ointment to protect from germs and cover the wound with a bandage
- If the wound isn't very bad the bleeding should stop in a few minutes

**Luckily, most cuts and scrapes go away on their own because of the body's amazing ability to heal itself!**

Sometimes when you accidentally hurt yourself a band-aid can't make your cut or scrape better on its' own, and you have to go to the Doctor.

## **What does the Doctor do?**

To treat a minor cut the Doctor might use a special glue to hold the sides of the wound together so it can heal. The glue wears away on over time naturally. To treat deep cut or scrape that won't heal on its' own, the doctor can use stitches. First, your cut will be cleaned to make sure there isn't any dirt or germs. To close a wound, a special needle is used to 'sew' the cut together. Getting stitches can hurt, but so the doctor will numb the area before the sewing needle is used.

