

# Pepin

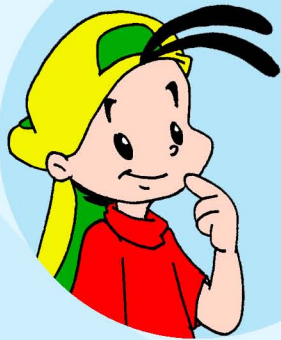
and the  
**Hepatitis A**  
Vaccine



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
at El Paso

To learn more about vaccines, it is important to ask your doctor,  
nurse or contact the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**1-800-232-2522**

or for Spanish,

**1-800-232-0233**



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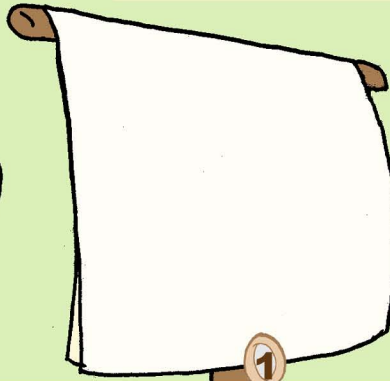
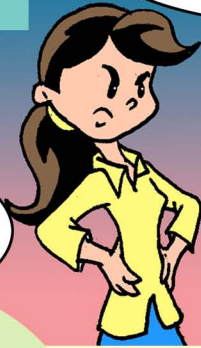
others think that  
I am handsome and funny.

Some people think that  
I am a very happy kid...



My mom thinks that  
I am stubborn.

I want to be a detective like  
my best friend Sherlock Olmos.





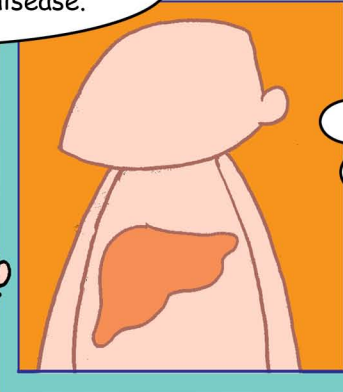
We want to solve an important case that involves the Hepatitis A virus which is acting very suspicious.



HP-A



In fact it is a virus that can cause serious liver disease.



I am surprised about Pepin's interest.



Hepatitis A is endemic to Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia (except Japan), Africa and Eastern Europe.





My uncle Carlos may be at risk of infection because he came from Mexico.



His family is also at risk because they are migrant workers.



The risk is higher because they travel and work in areas lacking access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and adequate housing.



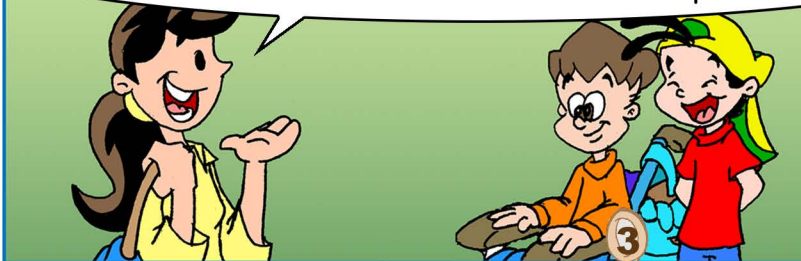
What can we do?



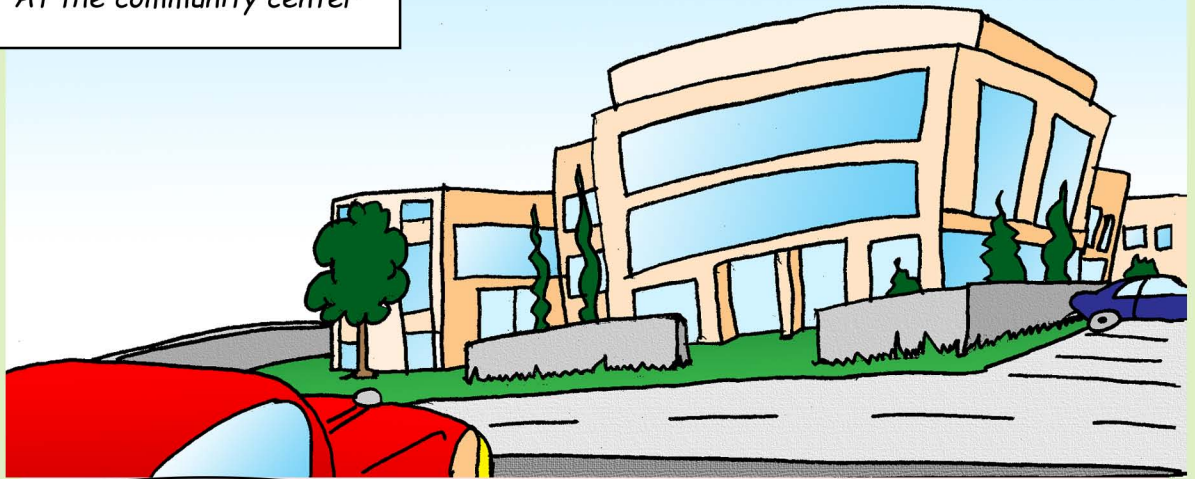
My mom will know what to do.



I think we need to ask the nurse at the community center; I am sure that a vaccine will help.



At the community center



There are areas in the United States with high rates of Hepatitis A,



...so it is recommended that all children receive the first dose of the vaccine between 1 and 5 years of age.



The vaccine will be offered to all children ages 1 to 3,



...with the possibility of older children and adults getting the vaccine if their doctor recommends it.





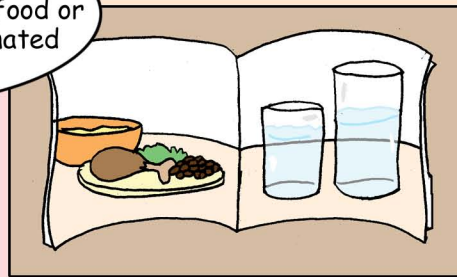
Hepatitis A virus might be found in the stool of persons with Hepatitis A.



Spreading can be caused by close personal contact including sex or...



...sharing household utensils and sometimes by eating food or drinking water contaminated with the virus.



**Hepatitis A can cause:**  
mild "flu-like" illness, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, Severe abdominal pain and diarrhea.



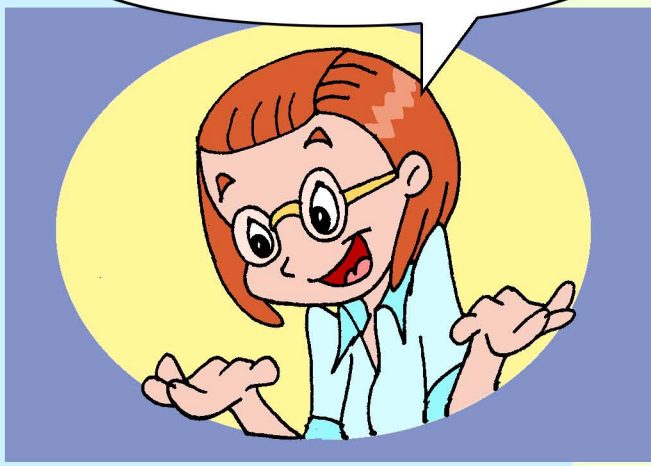
Adults are more likely than children to show these symptoms.







I do not know, you need to ask them.



Well my uncle is very smart and strong and I am sure he and his family have had it.

Let me call them.

Maybe we can call them a little later Pepin.



Later.....

Did you receive the vaccine against Hepatitis A?

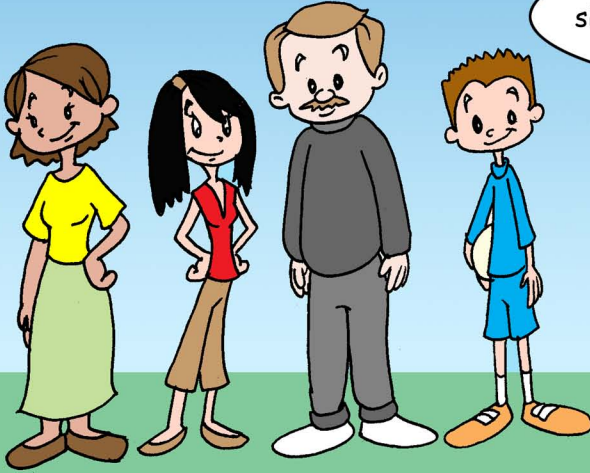
No.

You need to go right now  
...please go

Maggie and I do not  
need the vaccine because we were  
probably exposed to the Hepatitis A  
virus while growing up in Mexico.

Sherlock are you  
writing all of this down?

Adolescents and adults who spend significant portions of their lives in countries with high rates of Hepatitis A...



such as Mexico, South and Central America, or the Caribbean -- might have had the infection and would not be helped by the vaccine.



But everyone should check with a doctor to be sure if they need it or not.





We are trying to solve this case  
Uncle Carlos.

When was the first time that you  
had contact with the Hepatitis A virus?



I only know about the vaccine  
against the virus because David and Michelle  
were vaccinated as babies since we  
moved frequently between the  
U.S and Mexico.

Maybe we need to interview Michelle.

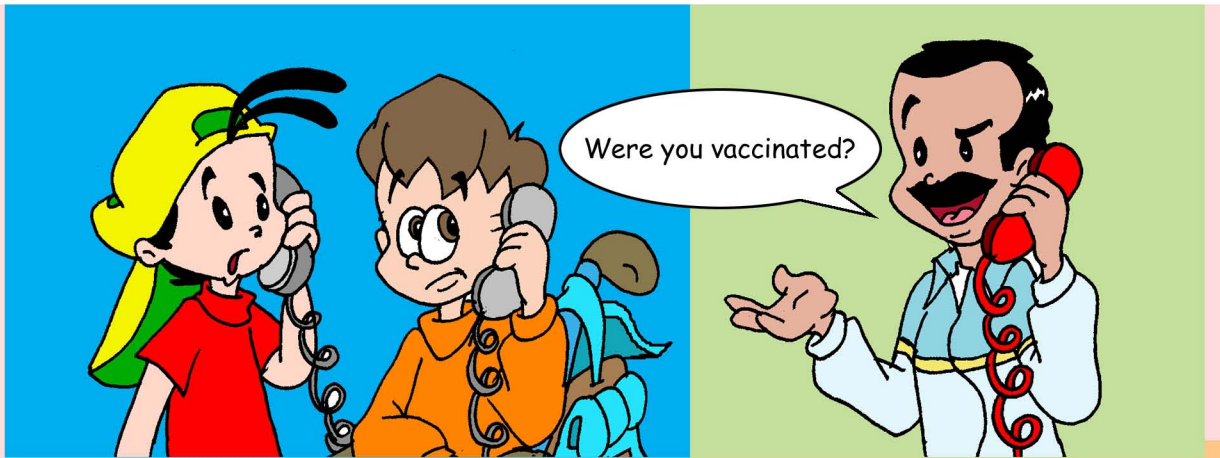
The vaccine against Hepatitis A is given to a person who is at risk of infection in a series of 2 shots, 6 months apart.



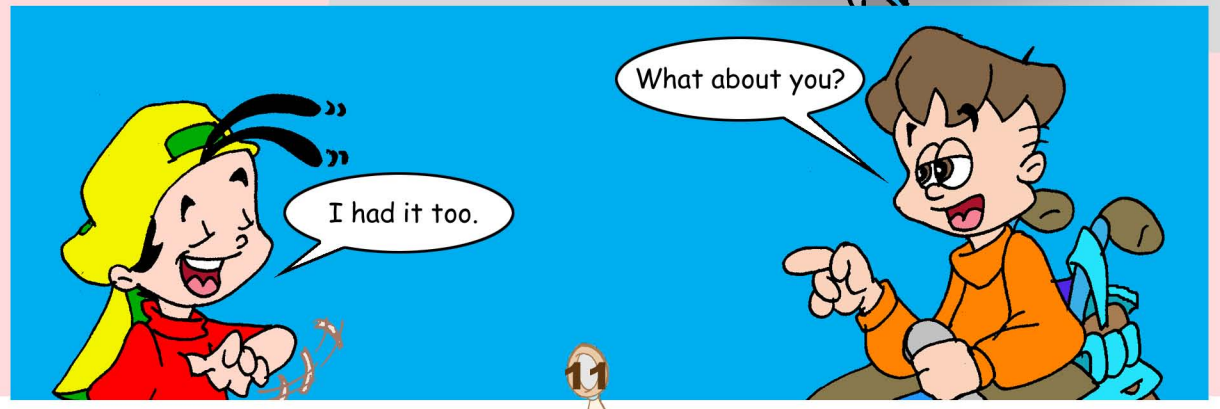
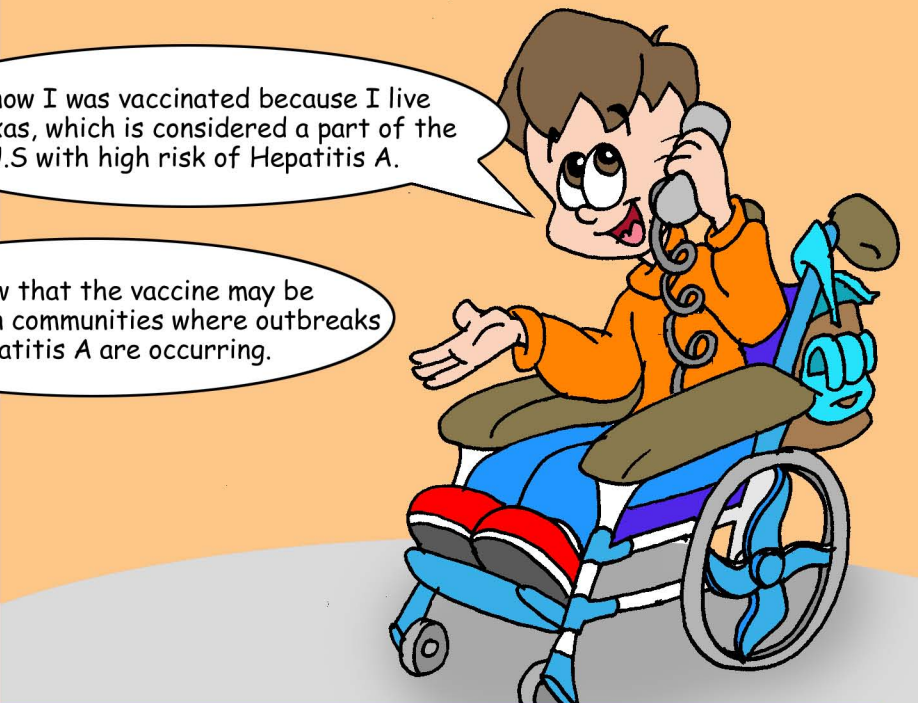
Something else?

If possible children, adolescents and adults need to receive both doses of the vaccine before traveling to different countries...

...with high or intermediate endemicity of Hepatitis A with the second dose providing lasting protection.



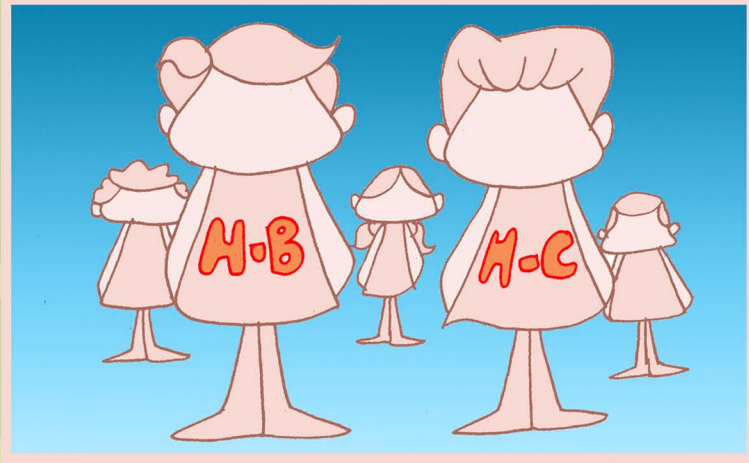
I know I was vaccinated because I live in Texas, which is considered a part of the U.S with high risk of Hepatitis A.







I am reading that adolescents and adults who are at risk should also receive the vaccine.



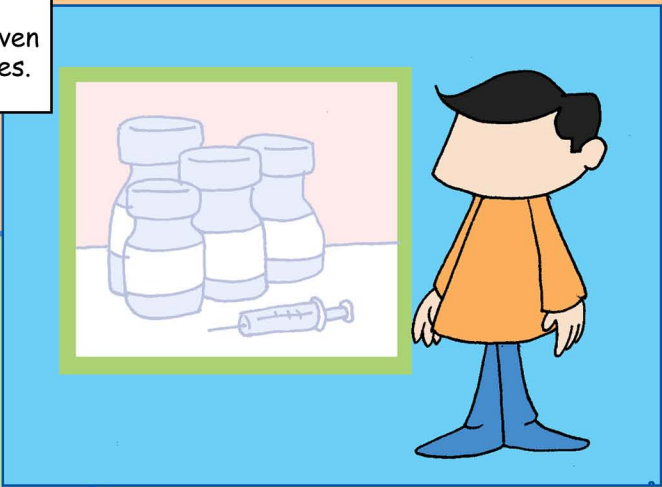
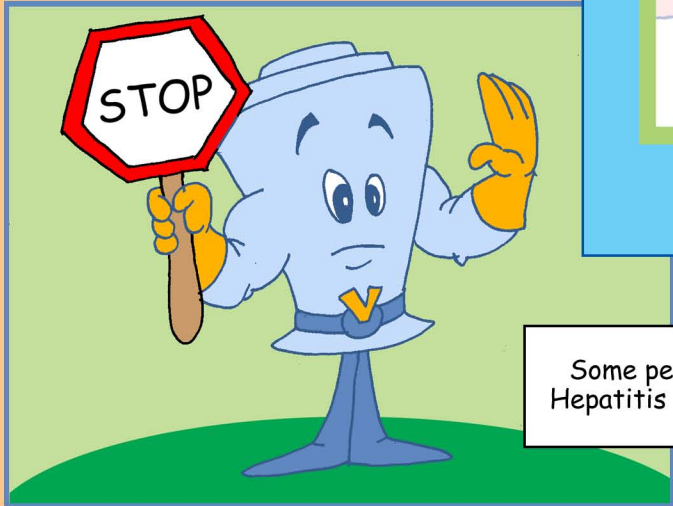
This includes individuals that have other types of hepatitis, blood conditions and people who participate in high risk behaviors, such as men who have sex with other men and I.V. drug abusers.

I think that the vaccine is acting very suspicious too.



NO it is not.

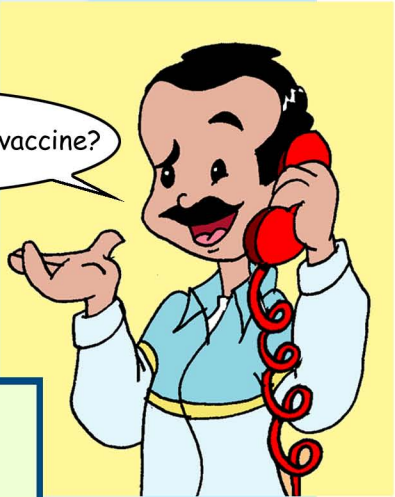
The Hepatitis A vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines.

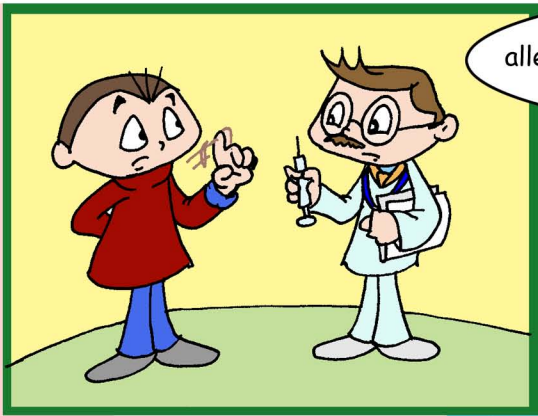


Some people should not get the Hepatitis A vaccine or should wait.

Who cannot have the vaccine?

Anyone who has ever had a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction to a previous dose of Hepatitis A vaccine...and





Anyone who has a severe, life-threatening allergy to any vaccine component, should not receive the vaccine and should inform the doctor, and finally...



Anyone moderately or severely ill at the time the shot is scheduled should probably wait to receive the vaccine....

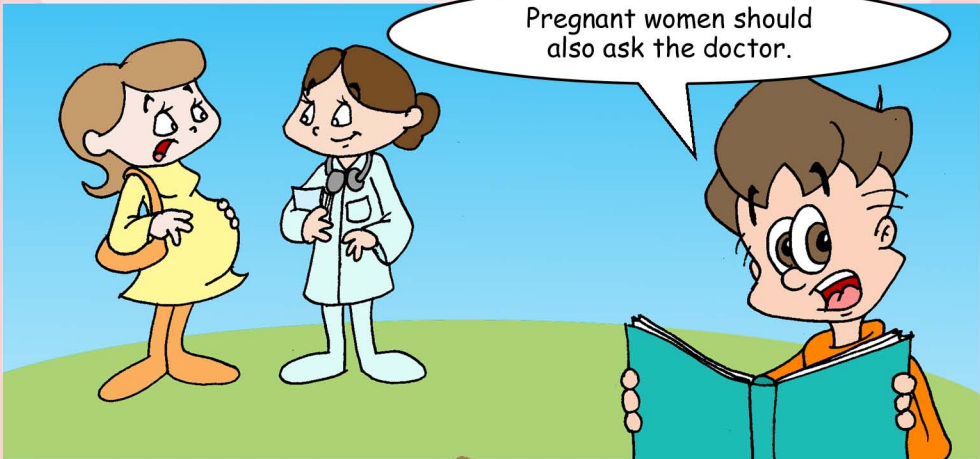
January

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



March

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Pregnant women should also ask the doctor.





There is no evidence that the vaccine is harmful to either pregnant women or their unborn babies. The risk, if any is thought to be very low.



Dad, we are trying to solve a case, and we called Uncle Carlos and if you grew up in Mexico .....



Slow down Pepin what is happening?



I was worried because Uncle Carlos may get sick with a terrible disease.



Do not worry; they are going to be fine. There is a vaccine to protect them.

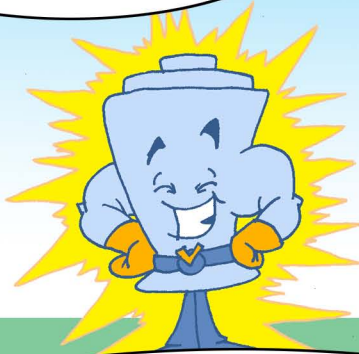


I always want to know the risks of receiving a vaccine.



Are there any?

A vaccine, like any medicine, can cause serious problems but the risk is extremely small.



The risks from the vaccine are much smaller than the risks from diseases if people are not vaccinated.

There can be some mild reactions after the vaccination such as soreness, headache, loss of appetite and tiredness. If these problems occur, they usually last for 1 or 2 days.

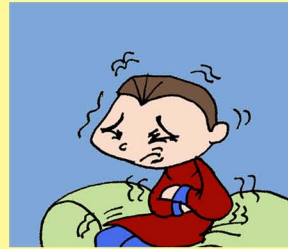
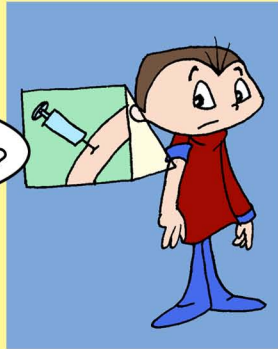




In extreme cases a person can have a serious allergic reaction within a few minutes to a few hours after receiving the shot.



What can you do if there is a serious reaction?



You must call the doctor and tell the doctor what is happening in detail.



The doctor, nurse or health department will then file a report in the **Vaccine Adverse Reporting System (VAERS)**.

You can also call a toll free number at

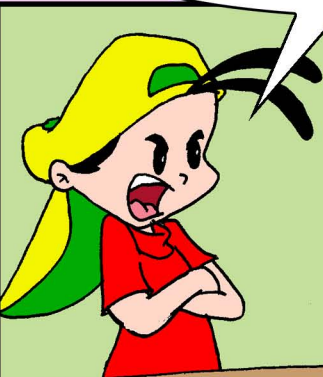
**1-800-822-7967**

to report the problem.







I am tired ...




I do not want to be a detective anymore...




I have everything written here, we can go eat and then we can review all of this.



Before playing?



After playing.



Tomorrow we can solve the case, I am sure.



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The End



# Pepin and the Hepatitis A Vaccine

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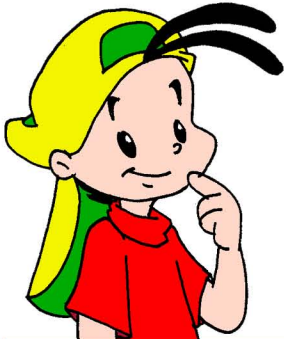
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