The Sick Child

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Eva Rivera is sitting at her desk at work. Suddenly the telephone rings. Eva picks up the phone. “Hello,” she says.
“Hello, Mrs. Rivera. This is Kate Shaw. I am the nurse at Lincoln Elementary School. I have your daughter, Lucy, here in our office. She is sick.”

“Oh, no!” says Eva.

“What’s the matter?”

“She has a fever,” answers the nurse.

“She also has a sore throat.”
“What is her temperature?” asks Eva.
“It is 102 degrees,” answers the nurse.
“Please come and pick her up right away.”
Eva explains to her boss that she has a sick child. Then she leaves work and drives to the nurse’s office at school.
The nurse says, “Lucy needs to drink a lot of fluid. Give her some Tylenol to reduce her temperature. If her temperature doesn’t go down, take her to a doctor.”
At home Lucy still doesn’t feel well. She doesn’t want to drink anything. Her temperature is up to 103 degrees. Eva drives Lucy to the doctor’s office.
Doctor Price examines Lucy. Her throat is very red. She gives Lucy a test for strep. The result is positive. The doctor says, “Your daughter has strep throat.”
“What’s does strep mean?” asks Eva. “Strep—streptococcus—is a serious bacterial infection in the throat. She will need to take antibiotics. Is Lucy allergic to penicillin?” asks the doctor.

“I don’t think so,” answers Eva.
“Good,” says the doctor. “Here is a prescription to take to the pharmacy. Lucy will need to take one teaspoon of this medicine three times a day.”
“When can she go back to school?” asks Eva.

“Strep is very contagious,” answers Doctor Price. “Keep her out of school for at least twenty-four hours from the time she begins to take the antibiotics. But if possible, please keep her home until she feels completely well.”

“Okay,” says Eva. “I will.”
“Also,” says Doctor Price, “pay attention to her after she takes the antibiotics. If she has any vomiting, diarrhea, fever, or a rash, stop giving her the medicine. Call my office immediately. She might be having an allergic reaction.”
“Thanks, Doctor Price,” says Eva.
“Good-bye, Lucy,” says Doctor Price.
“I’m sure you’ll feel better soon.”