Antibiotics Aren't Always the Answer!

Six Simple and Smart Facts about Antibiotics use according to CDC.com:

1) **Antibiotics are life-saving drugs**
   Using antibiotics wisely is the best way to preserve their strength for future bacterial illnesses.

2) **Antibiotics only treat bacterial infections**
   If your child has a viral infection like a cold, talk to a doctor or pharmacist about symptom relief.

3) **Some ear infections DO NOT require an antibiotic.**
   A doctor can determine what kind of ear infection your child had and if antibiotics will help. The doctor may follow expert guidelines to wait a couple of days before prescribing antibiotics since your child may get better without them.

4) **Most sore throats DO NOT require an antibiotic**
   Only 1 in 5 children seen by a doctor for a sore throat has strep throat, which should be treated with an antibiotic. Your child's doctor can only confirm strep throat by running a test.

5) **Green colored mucus is NOT a sign that an antibiotic is needed**
   As the body's immune system fights off an infection, mucus can change color. This is normal and does not mean your child needs an antibiotic.

6) **There are potential risks when taking any prescription drug**
   Antibiotic use can cause complications, ranging from an upset stomach to a serious allergic reactions. Your child's doctor will weigh the risks and benefits before prescribing an antibiotic.

For more information click on the link: [http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/antibiotic-use/URI/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/antibiotic-use/URI/index.html)