

# UConn

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

### Your Child's Health at School

**STORRS, CT** – Your daughter falls and scrapes her knee at recess. Your son needs medication during the day.

School nurses are eminently qualified to deal with these and many other health-related situations. They are registered nurses, licensed by their state's Board of Nursing, who provide professional nursing services to a school-based population. In addition, many school nurses are certified by the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (<http://www.nbcsn.org>).

Anne Wiant-Rudd, RN, school nurse at Goodwin Elementary School in Mansfield CT states, "We are responsible for acute and chronic care as well as responding to unexpected injuries. We are often the liaison between teachers, parents, other healthcare offices and/or insurance companies. As nurses, we also have the ability to teach prevention as well as self-care and help our students not only feel well today but encourage good life-time habits."

Lisa Eaton, '79, RN, school nurse at the Annie E. Vinton Elementary School in Mansfield, CT concurs, adding that "a crucial role for school nurses is to build solid relationships with our students and their families. Engaging families improves overall communication and builds mutual trust. Consequently, we better serve our school community."

#### **Some of the roles and responsibilities of the school nurse include providing:**

- First aid for minor injuries such as scrapes and cuts.
- Emergency services for anaphylactic reactions and other life-threatening conditions.
- Emotional support for normal developmental events, from baby teeth falling out to the beginning of puberty and menstruation..
- Input in required planning for students with special health and other needs such as 504 plans and Individualized Health Plans.
- Screening and referral for hearing and vision and other state-mandated health indicators.
- Administering prescribed medication such as Ritalin and Concerta.
- Education about health promotion and disease prevention.
- Leadership and advocacy in health-related school concerns.
- Supportive care for children with such conditions as seizures and diabetes.

These are just a few of the routine duties performed by school nurses during the course of their day. School nurses may also be assisted by other personnel, including health aides, licensed practical nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses.

For more information, please visit the National Association of School Nurses website at <http://www.nasn.org>

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**Dr. Arthur Engler**, PhD, RNC, APRN, is a specialist in both newborn care and pediatric primary care. In a collaboration between the UConn School of Nursing and the Yale School of Nursing, he has taught a community workshop for educators and childcare specialists, CT Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings.

**Dr. Annette Jakubisin-Konicki**, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, coordinates the UConn School of Nursing's Family Nurse Practitioner Program, and is a family nurse practitioner with the Day Kimball Medical group where she provides primary care to pre-school and school-age children.

**About UConn's [School of Nursing](#)** has a timeless commitment to wellness and provides the exceptional education needed to succeed and lead in the rapidly evolving healthcare professions. The school is fully approved, accredited and committed to quality research and public service. Its faculty members advance knowledge through excellence in scholarship and research into the healthcare needs of the world's diverse population. It seeks to earn the support of Connecticut taxpayers by dispatching a steady stream of competent, confident, compassionate nursing professionals – clinicians and scholars alike – into a world that desperately needs them. For more information, visit [www.nursing.uconn.edu](http://www.nursing.uconn.edu).