Assessing the Sick Child
There are certain danger signs that indicate that a child is seriously ill. This booklet talks about these danger signs and what to do if you observe any of these signs.

*Remember*
Recognizing these signs and taking prompt action may mean a difference between life and death.
The child is not able to drink breastmilk or other fluids.
What to do

First check whether the child is able to swallow or not. Sometimes a child is not able to suck breastmilk because of a blocked nose. Clear the nose and try feeding the child.

If the child is able to breastfeed after clearing the nose, there is no danger. If not, refer the child to a PHC/CHC or the other facility where care for a sick child is available.
Danger Sign

The child vomits whatever is fed.
First check whether the child is able to hold down some fluids or medicines. If so, there is no danger.

But if the child is unable to retain anything, including, fluids, food and medicines, refer the child to a PHC/CHC or the other facility where care for a sick child is available.
The child has convulsions.
What to do

Refer the child to a PHC/CHC immediately.
Check if the child is lethargic. The lethargic child is sleepy when the child should be awake. A child who stares blankly and does not appear to notice what is happening around is also lethargic.
What to do

Refer the child to a PHC/CHC immediately.
Danger Sign

Check if the child is unconscious. The unconscious child does not waken at all. This child does not respond to touch, loud noise or pain.
What to do

Refer the child to a PHC/CHC immediately.