

Key facts

- Pneumonia is the leading cause of death in children worldwide.
- Pneumonia kills an estimated 1.4 million children under the age of five years every year – more than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.
- Pneumonia can be caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi.
- Pneumonia can be prevented by immunization, adequate nutrition and by addressing environmental factors.
- Pneumonia can be treated with antibiotics, but around 30% of children with pneumonia receive the antibiotics they need.

Pneumonia is a form of acute respiratory infection that affects the lungs. The lungs are made up of small sacs called alveoli, which fill with air when a healthy person breathes. When an individual has pneumonia, the alveoli are filled with pus and fluid, which makes breathing painful and limits oxygen intake.

Pneumonia is the single largest cause of death in children worldwide. Every year, it kills an estimated 1.4 million children under the age of five years, accounting for 18% of all deaths of children under five years old worldwide. Pneumonia affects children and families everywhere, but is most prevalent in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Children can be **protected** from pneumonia; it can be **prevented** with simple interventions, and **treated** with low-cost, low-tech medication and care.

QUESTIONS: (EXPRESS YOUR IDEAS)

- 1. How many children under the age of years can Pneumonia kill every year?**
- 2. What is Pneumonia?**
- 3. How can Pneumonia be prevented?**
- 4. What are the signs or symptoms of Pneumonia?**
- 5. What medical interventions can you give to a child with Pneumonia?**
- 6. How are you going to educate a parent whose child is experiencing Pneumonia?**