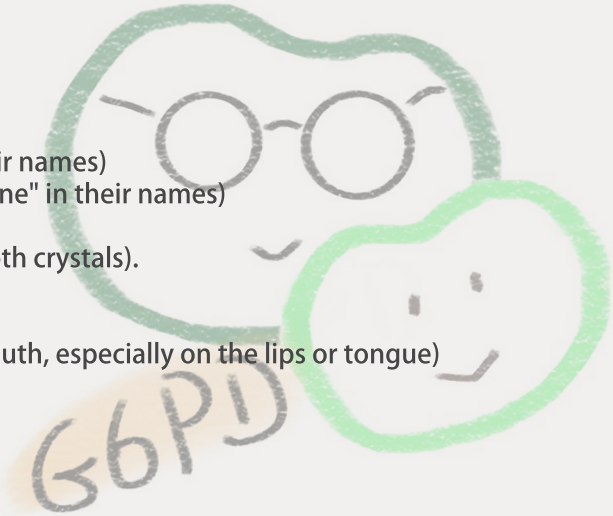
What Is G6PD Deficiency?

http://www.g6pdhk.com

G6PD deficiency is a genetic disorder that happens when the body doesn't produce enough of an enzyme called glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD). G6PD protects red blood cells from substances in the blood that could harm them.
Red blood cells that don't have enough G6PD are sensitive to some medicines, foods, and infections which trigger a quick loss of red blood cells over a short time. Such reaction is called a hemolytic crisis.

Triggers of hemolysis include:

- illness, such as bacterial and viral infections
- some painkillers and fever-lowering drugs
- some antibiotics (most often those with "sulf" in their names)
- some antimalarial drugs (most often those with "quine" in their names)
- fava beans (also called broad beans)
- naphthalene (a chemical found in mothballs and moth crystals).



The Signs & Symptoms of hemolysis include:

- paleness (paleness is sometimes best seen in the mouth, especially on the lips or tongue)
- extreme tiredness or dizziness
- fast heartbeat
- fast breathing or shortness of breath
- jaundice (the skin and eyes look yellow)
- an enlarged spleen
- dark, tea-colored pee

The best way to care for a child with G6PD deficiency is to avoid/limit exposure to anything that triggers symptoms. With the right care, G6PD deficiency should not keep a child from living a healthy, active life.