

## THE EXTERNAL FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM: HOW DOES IT WORK?

The outer folds of flesh that cover the female's vagina is called the *labia majora*. The outer fold is larger than the inner fold and has pubic hair growing on it. The inner folds are called the *labia minora*. These folds help protect the vagina and the urethra.

The *urethra* is a small tube that carries urine to the outside of the body from the bladder. The opening of the urethra is just below the clitoris. The *clitoris* is a sensitive area within the female reproductive system. Between the buttocks is an opening called the *anus*. This is where feces come out of the body.

The opening that leads to the internal female reproductive system is the *vagina*. The vagina is a soft and muscular elastic tube. The vagina is the birth canal for the fetus and allows menstrual flow to exit the body.