

Fevers

When to Seek Medical Care

Your child has a fever if he or she:

- Has a rectal, ear or forehead (temporal artery) temperature of 100.4 F (38 C) or higher
- Has an oral temperature of 100 F (37.8 C) or higher

Call your doctor if:

- Your child is younger than 3 months and has a fever

Seek medical care if a child of any age shows any of the following:

- Fussiness, or acting abnormally, which doesn't improve even after taking medications to bring down the fever
- Signs of dehydration, such as no wet diapers over eight to 10 hours, crying without tears, a dry mouth or refusing to drink any fluids
- Stiff neck or a headache
- Abdominal pain
- Trouble breathing
- Rash
- Joint pain or swelling

Also get medical help if the fever lasts more than five days in a row.

Medication Dosing

Not all fevers need medication. Fevers help fight infections. If your child is fairly comfortable, acting normal, and staying hydrated, a mild fever may not need medication. Contact your pediatrician for guidance.

[TYLENOL® Dosage Information for Children | TYLENOL®](#)

[Ibuprofen Dosing Table for Fever and Pain - HealthyChildren.org](#)