What to know when your child has a fever

Any body temperature above 100.3°F is considered a fever. A fever alone does not usually pose a serious health threat. It typically signals that the body is fighting off an infection.

Symptoms
• Higher-than-normal body temperature
• Hot, dry skin
• Sweating, shivering and/or chills
• General weakness
• Muscle aches
• Loss of appetite
• Headache
• Dehydration

Treatment
Dress your child lightly: Avoid tight clothing and heavy blankets.

Hydrate: Make sure your child is drinking plenty of clear liquids, such as water.

For comfort: Lukewarm bath or place a cold washcloth on forehead and wrists.

Medication: Children 3 months or older may take acetaminophen if temperature is above 102°F. Children 6 months or older may take ibuprofen if temperature is above 102°F.

When to call your pediatrician

For children older than 6 months: Call if temperature is 104°F or higher

For children younger than 3 months: Call immediately if temperature is 100.4°F or higher

For children 3-to-6 months old: Call immediately if temperature is 102.5°F or higher

Fever that lasts more than 3 days (or 24 hours for children below age 2)

Exhibiting signs of serous illness such as seizure, irregular breathing, stiff neck, vomiting or not eating/drinking

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