

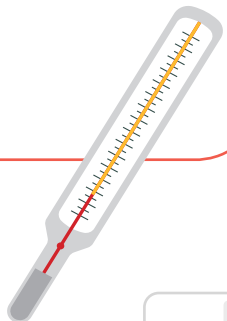
# What to know when your child has a fever

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 serious illness** such as seizure, irregular breathing, stiff neck, vomiting or not eating/drinking

