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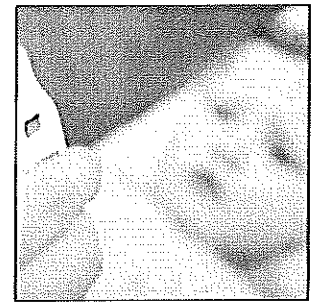
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Health Issues

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Signs and Symptoms of Fever

A **fever** is usually a sign that the body is fighting an illness or infection. Fevers are generally harmless. In fact, they can be considered a good sign that your child's immune system is working and the body is trying to heal itself. While it is important to look for the cause of a fever, the main purpose for **treating** it is to help your child feel better if he is uncomfortable or has pain.



What is a Fever

Normal body temperature varies with age, general health, activity level, and time of day. **Infants** tend to have higher temperatures than **older children**. Everyone's temperature is highest between late afternoon and early evening, and lowest between midnight and early morning. Even how much clothing a person wears can affect body temperature.

A fever is a body temperature that is higher than normal. While the average normal body temperature is 98.6°F (37°C), a normal temperature range is between 97.5°F (36.4°C) and 99.5°F (37.5°C). Most pediatricians consider a temperature above 100.4°F (38°C) as a sign of a fever.

Signs and Symptoms of a Fever

If your child has a fever, she may feel warm, appear flushed, or sweat more than usual. She may also be more thirsty than usual.

Some children feel fine when they have a fever. However, most will have symptoms of the illness that is causing the fever. Your child may have an **earache**, a **sore throat**, a **rash**, or a **stomach ache**. These signs can provide important clues as to the cause of the fever.

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Source Fever and Your Child (Copyright © 2007 American Academy of Pediatrics, updated 5/12)

The information contained on this Web site should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

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