BRIGHT FUTURES HANDOUT ▶ **PARENT**

FIRST WEEK VISIT (3 TO 5 DAYS)

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

HOW YOUR FAMILY IS DOING

- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as WIC and SNAP can also provide information and assistance.
- Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy. Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free.
- Take help from family and friends.

FEEDING YOUR BABY

- Feed your baby only breast milk or iron-fortified formula until he is about 6 months old.
- Feed your baby when he is hungry. Look for him to
  - Put his hand to his mouth.
  - Suck or root.
  - Fuss.
- Stop feeding when you see your baby is full. You can tell when he
  - Turns away
  - Closes his mouth
  - Relaxes his arms and hands
- Know that your baby is getting enough to eat if he has more than 5 wet diapers and at least 3 soft stools per day and is gaining weight appropriately.
- Hold your baby so you can look at each other while you feed him.
- Always hold the bottle. Never prop it.

If Breastfeeding

- Feed your baby on demand. Expect at least 8 to 12 feedings per day.
- A lactation consultant can give you information and support on how to breastfeed your baby and make you more comfortable.
- Begin giving your baby vitamin D drops (400 IU a day).
- Continue your prenatal vitamin with iron.
- Eat a healthy diet; avoid fish high in mercury.

If Formula Feeding

- Offer your baby 2 oz of formula every 2 to 3 hours. If he is still hungry, offer him more.

HOW YOU ARE FEELING

- Try to sleep or rest when your baby sleeps.
- Spend time with your other children.
- Keep up routines to help your family adjust to the new baby.

BABY CARE

- Sing, talk, and read to your baby; avoid TV and digital media.
- Help your baby wake for feeding by patting her, changing her diaper, and undressing her.
- Calm your baby by stroking her head or gently rocking her.
- *Never hit or shake your baby.*
- Take your baby's temperature with a rectal thermometer, not by ear or skin; a fever is a rectal temperature of 100.4°F/38.0°C or higher. Call us anytime if you have questions or concerns.
- Plan for emergencies: have a first aid kit, take first aid and infant CPR classes, and make a list of phone numbers.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid crowds and keep others from touching your baby without clean hands.
- Avoid sun exposure.

Helpful Resources: Smoking Quit Line: 800-784-8669 | Poison Help Line: 800-222-1222
Information About Car Safety Seats: www.safercar.gov/parents | Toll-free Auto Safety Hotline: 888-327-4236

FIRST WEEK VISIT (3 TO 5 DAYS)—PARENT

SAFETY

- Use a rear-facing–only car safety seat in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Make sure your baby always stays in his car safety seat during travel. If he becomes fussy or needs to feed, stop the vehicle and take him out of his seat.
- Your baby's safety depends on you. Always wear your lap and shoulder seat belt. Never drive after drinking alcohol or using drugs. Never text or use a cell phone while driving.
- Never leave your baby in the car alone. Start habits that prevent you from ever forgetting your baby in the car, such as putting your cell phone in the back seat.
- Always put your baby to sleep on his back in his own crib, not your bed.
  - Your baby should sleep in your room until he is at least 6 months old.
  - Make sure your baby's crib or sleep surface meets the most recent safety guidelines.
- If you choose to use a mesh playpen, get one made after February 28, 2013.
- Swaddling should be used only with babies younger than 2 months.
- Prevent scalds or burns. Don't drink hot liquids while holding your baby.
- Prevent tap water burns. Set the water heater so the temperature at the faucet is at or below 120°F /49°C.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR BABY'S 1 MONTH VISIT

We will talk about

- Taking care of your baby, your family, and yourself
- Promoting your health and recovery
- Feeding your baby and watching her grow
- Caring for and protecting your baby
- Keeping your baby safe at home and in the car

Consistent with *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents,* 4th Edition

For more information, go to https://brightfutures.aap.org.

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Safe Sleep and Your Baby:

How Parents Can Reduce the Risk of SIDS and Suffocation

About 3,500 babies die each year in the United States during sleep because of unsafe sleep environments.

Some of these deaths are caused by entrapment, suffocation, or strangulation. Some infants die of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). However, there are ways for parents to keep their sleeping baby safe.

Read on for more information from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) on how parents can create a safe sleep environment for their babies. This information should also be shared with anyone who cares for babies, including grandparents, family, friends, babysitters, and child care center staff.

NOTE: These recommendations are for healthy babies up to 1 year of age. A very small number of babies with certain medical conditions may need to be placed to sleep on their stomach. Your baby's doctor can tell you what is best for your baby.

What You Can Do

- **Place your baby to sleep on his back for every sleep.**
  - Babies up to 1 year of age should always be placed on their back to sleep during naps and at night. However, if your baby has rolled from his back to his side or stomach on his own, he can be left in that position if he is already able to roll from tummy to back and back to tummy.
  - If your baby falls asleep in a car safety seat, stroller, swing, infant carrier, or infant sling, he should be moved to a firm sleep surface as soon as possible.
  - Swaddling (wrapping a light blanket snuggly around a baby) may help calm a crying baby. However, if you swaddle your baby before placing him on his back to sleep, stop swaddling him as soon as he starts trying to roll.
- **Place your baby to sleep on a firm sleep surface.**
  - The crib, bassinet, portable crib, or play yard should meet current safety standards. Check to make sure the product has not been recalled. Do not use a crib that is broken or missing parts or that has drop-side rails. For more information about crib safety standards, visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site at www.cpsc.gov.
  - Cover the mattress with a fitted sheet.
  - Do not put blankets or pillows between the mattress and fitted sheet.
  - Never put your baby to sleep on an armchair, a sofa, a water bed, a cushion, or a sheepskin. (Parents should also make sure not to fall asleep on an armchair or a sofa while holding a baby.)
- **Keep soft objects, loose bedding, or any objects that could increase the risk of entrapment, suffocation, or strangulation out of the crib.**
  - Pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, bumper pads, and stuffed toys can cause your baby to suffocate.

NOTE: Research has not shown us when it's 100% safe to have these objects in the crib; however, most experts agree that these objects pose little risk to healthy babies after 12 months of age.

- **Place your baby to sleep in the same room where you sleep but not the same bed.**
  - Keep the crib or bassinet within an arm's reach of your bed. You can easily watch or breastfeed your baby by having your baby nearby.
  - The AAP cannot make a recommendation for or against the use of bedside sleepers or in-bed sleepers until more studies are done.
  - Babies who sleep in the same bed as their parents are at risk of SIDS, suffocation, or strangulation. Parents can roll onto babies during sleep, or babies can get tangled in the sheets or blankets.
- **Breastfeed as much and for as long as you can.** This helps reduce the risk of SIDS.
  - The AAP recommends breastfeeding as the sole source of nutrition for your baby for about 6 months. When you add solid foods to your baby's diet, continue breastfeeding until at least 12 months. You can continue to breastfeed after 12 months if you and your baby desire.
- **Schedule and go to all well-child visits.** Your baby will receive important immunizations.
  - Recent evidence suggests that immunizations may have a protective effect against SIDS.
- **Keep your baby away from smokers and places where people smoke.** This helps reduce the risk of SIDS.
  - If you smoke, try to quit. However, until you can quit, keep your car and home smoke-free. Don't smoke inside your home or car, and don't smoke anywhere near your baby, even if you are outside.
- **Do not let your baby get too hot.** This helps reduce the risk of SIDS.
  - Keep the room where your baby sleeps at a comfortable temperature.
  - In general, dress your baby in no more than one extra layer than you would wear. Your baby may be too hot if she is sweating or if her chest feels hot.
  - If you are worried that your baby is cold, use a wearable blanket, such as a sleeping sack, or warm sleeper that is the right size for your baby. These are made to cover the body and not the head.
- **Offer a pacifier at nap time and bedtime.** This helps reduce the risk of SIDS.
  - If you are breastfeeding, wait until breastfeeding is going well before offering a pacifier. This usually takes 3 to 4 weeks. If you are not breastfeeding, you can start a pacifier as soon as you like.

- It's OK if your baby doesn't want to use a pacifier. You can try offering a pacifier again, but some babies don't like to use pacifiers.
- If the pacifier falls out after your baby falls asleep, you don't have to put it back in.
- Do not use pacifiers that attach to infant clothing.
- Do not use pacifiers that are attached to objects, such as stuffed toys and other items that may be a suffocation or choking risk.

- **Do not use home cardiorespiratory monitors to help reduce the risk of SIDS.**
  - Home cardiorespiratory monitors can be helpful for babies with breathing or heart problems, but they have not been found to reduce the risk of SIDS.
- **Use caution when using products that claim to reduce the risk of SIDS.**
  - Products such as wedges, positioners, special mattresses, and specialized sleep surfaces have not been shown to reduce the risk of SIDS.

What Expectant Moms Can Do

- Schedule and go to all prenatal doctor visits.
- Do not smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs while pregnant or after the birth of your newborn. Stay away from smokers and places where people smoke.
- Remember to hold your newborn skin to skin while breastfeeding. If you can, do this as soon as you can after birth. Skin-to-skin contact is also beneficial for bottle-fed newborns.

Remember Tummy Time

Give your baby plenty of "tummy time" when she is awake. This will help strengthen neck muscles and help prevent flat spots on the head. Always stay with your baby during tummy time, and make sure she is awake.

From Your Doctor

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Jaundice and Your Newborn

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby!

To make sure your baby's first week is safe and healthy, it is important that

1. You find a primary care provider, such as a pediatrician you are comfortable with, for your baby's ongoing care.
2. Your baby is checked for jaundice in the hospital.
3. If you are breastfeeding, you get the help you need to make sure it is going well.
4. You make sure your baby is seen by a doctor or nurse at 3 to 5 days of age.
5. If your baby is discharged before age 72 hours, your baby should be seen by a doctor or nurse within 2 days of discharge from the hospital.

Q: What is jaundice?

A: Jaundice is the yellow color seen in the skin of many newborns. It happens when a chemical called *bilirubin* builds up in the baby's blood. Jaundice can occur in babies of any race or color.

Q: Why is jaundice common in newborns?

A: Everyone's blood contains bilirubin, which comes from red blood cells and is removed by the liver. Before birth, the mother's liver does this for the baby. Most babies develop jaundice in the first few days after birth because it takes a few days for the baby's liver to get better at removing bilirubin.

Q: How can I tell if my baby is jaundiced?

A: The skin of a baby with jaundice usually appears yellow. The best way to see jaundice is in good light, such as daylight or under fluorescent lights. Jaundice usually appears first in the face and then moves to the chest, abdomen, arms, and legs as the bilirubin level increases. The whites of the eyes may also be yellow. Jaundice may be harder to see in babies with darker skin color.

Q: Can jaundice hurt my baby?

A: Most babies have mild jaundice that is harmless, but in unusual situations the bilirubin level can get very high and might cause brain damage. This is why newborns should be checked carefully for jaundice and treated to prevent a high bilirubin level.

Q: How should my baby be checked for jaundice?

A: If your baby looks jaundiced in the first few days after birth, your baby's doctor or nurse may use a skin or blood test to check your baby's bilirubin level. However, because estimating the bilirubin level based on the baby's appearance can be difficult, most experts recommend that a skin or blood test be done in the first 2 days even if your baby does not appear jaundiced. A bilirubin level is always needed if jaundice develops before the baby is 24 hours old. Whether a test is needed after that depends on the baby's age, the amount of jaundice, and whether the baby has other factors that make jaundice more likely or harder to see.

Q: Does breastfeeding affect jaundice?

A: Breast milk (human milk) is the ideal food for your baby. Jaundice is more common in babies who are breastfed than babies who are formula-fed. However, this occurs more often in newborns who are not getting enough breast milk because their mothers are not producing enough milk (especially if the milk comes in late) or if breastfeeding is not going well, such as babies not latching on properly.

For the first 24 hours after birth, normal breastfed newborns receive only about 1 teaspoon of milk with each feeding. The amount of breast milk provided increases with each day. If you are breastfeeding, you should breastfeed your baby at least 8 to 12 times a day for the first few days. This will help you produce enough milk and will help keep the baby's bilirubin level down. If you are having trouble breastfeeding, ask your baby's doctor or nurse or a lactation specialist for help.

Q: When should my baby get checked after leaving the hospital?

A: It is important for your baby to be seen by a nurse or doctor when the baby is between 3 and 5 days old, because this is usually when a baby's bilirubin level is highest. This is why, if your baby is discharged before age 72 hours, your baby should be seen within 2 days of discharge. The timing of this visit may vary depending on your baby's age when released from the hospital and other factors.

Q: Why do some babies need an earlier follow-up visit after leaving the hospital?

A: Some babies have a greater risk for high levels of bilirubin and may need to be seen sooner after discharge from the hospital. Ask your doctor about an early follow-up visit if your baby has any of the following symptoms:

- A high bilirubin level before leaving the hospital
- Early birth (more than 2 weeks before the due date)
- Jaundice in the first 24 hours after birth
- Breastfeeding that is not going well
- A lot of bruising or bleeding under the scalp related to labor and delivery
- A parent, brother, or sister who had a high bilirubin level and received light therapy

Q: When should I call my baby's doctor?

A: Call your baby's doctor if

- Your baby's skin turns more yellow.
- Your baby's abdomen, arms, or legs are yellow.
- The whites of your baby's eyes are yellow.
- Your baby is jaundiced and is hard to wake, fussy, or not nursing or taking formula well.

Q: How is harmful jaundice prevented?

A: Most jaundice requires no treatment. When treatment is necessary, placing your baby under special lights while he or she is undressed will lower the bilirubin level. Depending on your baby's bilirubin level, this can be done in the hospital or at home. Jaundice is treated at levels that are much lower than those at which brain damage is a concern. In some babies, supplementing breast milk with formula

can also help to lower the bilirubin level and prevent the need for phototherapy. Treatment can prevent the harmful effects of jaundice.

> **Note:** Exposing your baby to sunlight through a window might help lower the bilirubin level, but this will only work if the baby is undressed. Make sure the temperature in your home is comfortable and not too cold for your baby. Newborns should never be put in direct sunlight outside because they might get sunburned.

Q: When does jaundice go away?

A: In breastfed babies, it is common for jaundice to last 1 month or occasionally longer. In formula-fed babies, most jaundice goes away by 2 weeks. However, if your baby is jaundiced for more than 3 weeks, see your baby's doctor.

From Your Doctor

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Car Safety Seat Checkup

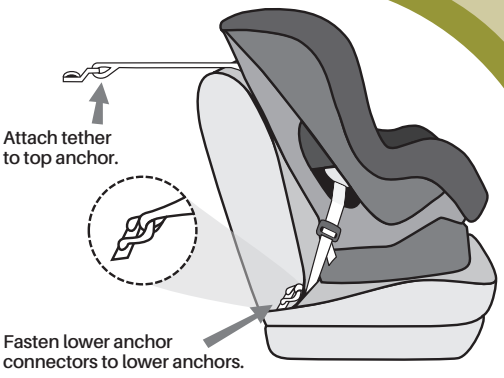

FIGURE 1.
Car safety seat with LATCH.

FIGURE 2.
Rear-facing–only car safety seat.

FIGURE 3.
Convertible car safety seat used rear facing.

Using a car safety seat correctly makes a big difference. Even the right seat for your child's size must be used correctly to properly protect your child in a crash. Here are car safety seat tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Does your car have airbags?

- Never place a rear-facing car safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle that has a front passenger airbag. If the airbag inflates, it will hit the back of the car safety seat, right where your baby's head rests, and could cause serious injury or death.
- The safest place for all children younger than 13 years to ride is in the back seat regardless of weight and height.
- If an older child must ride in the front seat, a child in a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness may be the best choice. Be sure you move the vehicle seat as far back from the dashboard (and airbag) as possible.

Is your child facing the right way for weight, height, and age?

- All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat manufacturer. When infants outgrow a rear-facing–only seat, they should use a rear-facing convertible seat. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear facing for 2 years or more.
- Any child who has outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for his convertible car safety seat should use a forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by his car safety seat manufacturer. Many seats can accommodate children up to 65 pounds or more.

Is the harness snug?

- Harness straps should fit snugly against your child's body. Check the car safety seat instructions to learn how to adjust the straps.
- Place the chest clip at armpit level to keep the harness straps secure on the shoulders.

Does the car safety seat fit correctly in your vehicle?

- Not all car safety seats fit properly in all vehicles.
- Read the section on car safety seats in the owner's manual for your car.

Can you use the LATCH system?

- LATCH (lower anchors and tethers for children) is a car safety seat attachment system that can be used instead of the seat belt to install the seat. These systems are equally safe, but in some cases, it may be easier to install the car safety seat using LATCH.
- Vehicles with the LATCH system have anchors located in the back seat, where the seat cushions meet. All car safety seats have attachments that fasten to these anchors. Nearly all passenger vehicles made on or after September 1, 2002, and all car safety seats are equipped to use LATCH. All lower anchors are rated for a maximum weight of 65 pounds (total weight includes car safety seat and child). Check the car safety seat manufacturer's recommendations for the maximum weight a child can be to use lower anchors. New car safety seats have the maximum weight printed on their label.
- The top tether improves safety provided by the seat. Use the tether for all forward-facing seats. Check your vehicle owner's manual for the location of tether anchors. Always follow both the car safety seat and vehicle manufacturer instructions, including weight limits, for lower anchors and tethers. Remember, weight limits are different for different car safety seats and different vehicles.

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FIGURE 4.
Forward-facing car safety seat with harness.

FIGURE 5.
Belt-positioning booster seat.

FIGURE 6.
Lap and shoulder seat belt.

Is the seat belt or LATCH strap in the right place and pulled tight?

- Route the seat belt or LATCH strap through the correct path. Convertible seats have different belt paths for when they are used rear facing or forward facing (check your instructions to make sure).
- Pull the belt tight. Apply weight into the seat with your hand while tightening the seat belt or LATCH strap. When the car safety seat is installed, be sure it does not move more than an inch side to side or toward the front of the car.
- If you install the car safety seat using your vehicle's seat belt, you must make sure the seat belt locks to keep a tight fit. In most newer cars, you can lock the seat belt by pulling it all the way out and then allowing it to retract to keep the seat belt tight around the car safety seat. Many car safety seats have built-in lock-offs to lock the belt. Check your vehicle owner's manual and car safety seat instructions to make sure you are using the seat belt correctly.
- It is best to use the tether that comes with your car safety seat to the highest weight allowed by your vehicle and the manufacturer of your car safety seat. Check your vehicle owner's manual and car safety seat instructions for how and when to use the tether and lower anchors.

Has your child outgrown the forward-facing seat?

- All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are 8 through 12 years of age.
- A seat belt fits properly when the shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not the neck or throat; the lap belt is low and snug across the upper thighs, not the belly; and the child is tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with her knees bent over the edge of the seat without slouching and can comfortably stay in this position throughout the trip.

Do you have the instructions for the car safety seat?

- Follow them and keep them with the car safety seat.
- Keep your child in the car safety seat until she reaches the weight or height limit set by the manufacturer. Follow the instructions to determine whether your child should ride rear facing or forward facing and whether to install the seat using LATCH or the vehicle seat belt.

Has the car safety seat been recalled?

- You can find out by calling the manufacturer or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888/327-4236 or by going to the NHTSA Web site at www.safercar.gov.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for making any repairs to your car safety seat.
- Be sure to fill in and mail in the registration card that comes with the car safety seat. It will be important in case the seat is recalled.

Do you know the history of your child's car safety seat?

- Do not use a used car safety seat if you do not know the history of the seat.
- Do not use a car safety seat that has been in a crash, has been recalled, is too old (check the expiration date or use 6 years from date of manufacture if there is no expiration date), has any cracks in its frame, or is missing parts.
- Make sure it has labels from the manufacturer and instructions.
- Call the car safety seat manufacturer if you have questions about the safety of your seat.

Resources

If you have questions or need help installing your car safety seat, find a certified child passenger safety technician (CPST) by going to the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Web site at http://cert.safekids.org and clicking on "Find a Tech."

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) offers more information in the brochure *Car Safety Seats: Guide for Families.* Ask your pediatrician about this brochure or visit the official AAP Web site for parents, www.HealthyChildren.org/carseatguide.

Figure 1 adapted from US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *LATCH Makes Child Safety Seat Installation as Easy as 1-2-3.* DOT HS publication 809 489. Published March 2011.

Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 by Anthony Alex LeTourneau.

Listing of resources does not imply an endorsement by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The AAP is not responsible for the content of external resources. Information was current at the time of publication.

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The information contained in this publication 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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Breastfeeding Your Baby: Getting Started

Getting ready for the birth of your baby is an exciting and busy time. One of the most important decisions you will make is how to feed your baby.

Deciding to breastfeed can give your baby the best possible start in life. Breastfeeding benefits you and your baby in many ways. It also is a proud tradition of many cultures.

The following are excerpts from the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) booklet Breastfeeding Your Baby: Answers to Common Questions.

Benefits of Breastfeeding

In general, the longer you breastfeed, the greater the benefits you and your baby will get, and the longer these benefits will last.

Why is breastfeeding so good for my baby?

Breastfeeding is good for your baby because

1. **Breastfeeding provides warmth and closeness.** The physical contact helps create a special bond between you and your baby.
2. **Human milk has many benefits.**
   - It's easier for your baby to digest.
   - It doesn't need to be prepared.
   - It's always available.
   - It has all the nutrients, calories, and fluids your baby needs to be healthy.
   - It has growth factors that ensure the best development of your baby's organs.
   - It has many substances that formulas don't have that help protect your baby from many diseases and infections. In fact, breastfed babies are less likely to have
     - Ear infections
     - Diarrhea
     - Pneumonia, wheezing, and bronchiolitis
     - Other bacterial and viral infections, such as meningitis
   - Research also suggests that breastfeeding may help protect against obesity, diabetes, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), asthma, eczema, colitis, and some cancers.

Why is breastfeeding good for me?

Breastfeeding is good for your health because it helps

- Release hormones in your body that promote mothering behavior.
- Return your uterus to the size it was before pregnancy more quickly.
- Burn more calories, which may help you lose the weight you gained during pregnancy.
- Delay the return of your menstrual period to help keep iron in your body.
- Provide contraception, but only if these 3 conditions are met: (1) you are exclusively breastfeeding at daytime and nighttime and not giving your baby any other supplements, (2) it is within the first 6 months after birth, (3) your period has not returned.
- Reduce the risk of ovarian cancer and breast cancer.
- Keep bones strong, which helps protect against bone fractures in older age.

How Breastfeeding Works

When you become pregnant, your body begins to prepare for breastfeeding. Your breasts become larger and after your fourth or fifth month of pregnancy, your body is able to produce milk.

What is colostrum?

Colostrum is the first milk your body makes. It's thick with a yellow or orange tint. Colostrum is filled with all the nutrients your newborn needs. It also contains many substances to protect your baby against diseases and infections. It's very important for your baby's health to get this early milk, though it may seem like a small amount. Your baby only needs less than 1 tablespoon per feeding on the first day and about 2 tablespoons per feeding on the second day.

What's the difference between milk coming in (increase in milk production) and let-down?

Milk coming in and ***let-down*** mean different things, but both are important.

- *Milk comes in* 2 to 5 days after your baby is born. This is when colostrum increases quickly in volume and becomes milky-white transitional milk. Signs that your milk is coming in include
  - Full and tender breasts
  - Leaking of milk
  - Seeing milk around your baby's mouth
  - Hearing your baby swallow when fed

  Breast milk changes daily and will adjust to your baby's needs for the rest of the time you breastfeed. Because the color or creaminess of the milk can change daily, don't worry about how your milk looks.
- *Let-down* is the reflex that creates the flow of milk from the back of the breast to the nipple. Let-down occurs each time the baby suckles. It is triggered when you are relaxed and your baby is latched on to your breast properly. Let-down may also happen between feedings, such as when the breasts are somewhat full or when you hear a baby's cry. The first few times you breastfeed, the let-down reflex may take a few minutes. Afterward, let-down occurs faster, usually within a few seconds. Let-down occurs in both breasts at the same time. It may occur several times during each feeding.

  The signs of let-down are different for each woman. Some women feel nothing, even though breastfeeding is going fine. Other women feel
  - Cramping in the uterus. This can be strong for the first few days after delivery but often goes away after breastfeeding is well-established.
  - A brief prickle, tingle, or even slight pain in the breast.
  - A sudden feeling that breasts are heavier.
  - Milk dripping from the breast that's not being used.
  - Their baby swallowing or gulping when fed.

What is *demand* and *supply*?

The more milk your baby takes from your breast, the more milk you make. This is called *demand and supply* because the more milk your baby demands the more you will supply. Many women with small breasts worry that they won't be able to make enough milk. However, because of demand and supply, there's no relationship between breast size and how much milk is produced.

Getting Started

Babies are very alert after they are born and ready to find the breast! The more relaxed and confident you feel, the faster your milk will flow to your baby. Getting comfortable will help you and your baby get started toward a better latch-on.

How soon can I breastfeed?

You can and should breastfeed within the first hour after birth if you and your baby are physically able to do so. After delivery, your baby should be placed on your chest or stomach, skin to skin. The early smell and taste of your milk helps your baby learn to nurse. Your breast milk is all your baby needs if your baby is healthy. Other liquids, including water, sugar water and formula, will only lessen the benefits your baby receives from the early breast milk. Try to stay with your baby as much as you can. Rooming in with your baby day and night during your hospital stay has been shown to help start breastfeeding and keep it going longer.

What are different breastfeeding positions?

Always take time to get comfortable. Don't be shy about asking for help during the first feedings. It may take a few tries but with a little patience, you and your baby will succeed. The following are 3 breastfeeding positions:

Cradle hold—the traditional breastfeeding position. Firmly support your baby's back and bottom. When feeding this way, make sure your baby's entire body is facing your body, not the ceiling.

Clutch hold or football hold—may be more comfortable if you've had a cesarean delivery because it keeps the baby's weight off of the stitches.

Reclining—feeding your baby while lying down lets you relax and can be helpful if you've had a cesarean delivery or are tired.

How can I get comfortable while breastfeeding?

A few simple things can help you feel comfortable and relaxed.

- Sit on a comfortable chair with good back and arm support.
- Lie on your side in bed with your baby facing you. Place pillows to support your back and neck.
- Take deep breaths and picture yourself in a peaceful place.
- Listen to soothing music while sipping a healthy drink.
- Apply moist heat (such as warm, wet washcloths) to your breast several minutes before each feeding.
- If your home is very busy, find a quiet place where you won't be disturbed during feedings.
- If you had a cesarean delivery, use extra pillows to help position your baby.
- Try different breastfeeding positions.
- Make sure the baby is latched on correctly. (See next question.)

Early Signs of Hunger

Your baby starts to let you know when she's hungry by the following early signs or cues:

- Small movements as she starts to awaken
- Whimpering or lip-smacking
- Pulling up arms or legs toward her middle
- Stretching or yawning
- Waking and looking alert
- Putting hands toward her mouth
- Making sucking motions
- Moving fists to her mouth
- Becoming more active
- Nuzzling against your breast

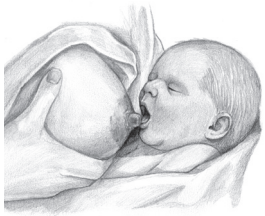
Why is latch-on so important, and how is it done?

A good latch-on means that your baby has opened his mouth wide and is well back on the breast, taking both the areola and nipple far back into his mouth. Correct latch-on is very important because it

- Makes milk flow better
- Prevents sore nipples
- Keeps your baby satisfied
- Stimulates a good milk supply for baby's weight gain
- Helps to prevent engorged (overly full) breasts

You can help your baby latch on by holding your breast with your free hand. Place your fingers under your breast and with your thumb on top. Move your fingers well back from the areola so they don't get in the way. Position your baby with his entire body facing you.

Touch your nipple to the center of your baby's lower lip. This will cause your baby to open his mouth widely. This is called the *rooting reflex*. As this occurs, pull your baby onto the nipple and areola. Keep in mind that when your baby is correctly positioned, or latched on, your nipple and much of the areola are pulled well into his mouth. Your baby's lips and gums should be around the areola and not just on the nipple. Your baby's chin should be touching your breast and his nose should be close to the breast.



Support your breast and tickle your baby's lower lip with your nipple to stimulate his rooting reflex.

At first you will feel a tugging sensation. You also may feel a brief period of pain. If breastfeeding continues to hurt, pinch, or burn, your baby may not be latched on properly. Break the latch by slipping your finger into the corner of your baby's mouth, reposition, and try again. It can take several tries.

Hospital staff should watch a feeding and make suggestions. If breastfeeding continues to hurt, you may need the help of a lactation specialist. Let your pediatrician know if there's a problem.

When your baby's mouth is wide open, bring him quickly, but gently, toward your breast.

Beyond the First Feedings

How often should I nurse?

Newborns feed often and will give cues or signs when they are ready to feed. The length of each feeding varies and your baby will show signs when she is finished. Newborns are hungry at different times, with a long cluster of feedings in the late afternoon or night. Most breastfed newborns feed 8 to 12 or more times per 24 hours (once the milk has come in). If your baby isn't waking on her own during the first few weeks, wake her if more than 4 hours have passed since the last feeding. If you are having a hard time waking up your baby for feedings, let your pediatrician know.

What's the best feeding schedule for a breastfed baby?

Feeding schedules are different for every baby, but it's best to start nursing your baby before crying starts. Crying is a late sign of hunger. Whenever possible, use your baby's cues instead of the clock to decide when to nurse. It can be less frustrating for you and your baby if you learn your baby's early hunger cues. Frequent feedings help stimulate the breasts to produce milk more efficiently.

During a growth spurt (rapid growth), babies will want to nurse all the time. Remember, this is normal and temporary, usually lasting about 4 to 5 days. Keep on breastfeeding, and don't give any other liquids or foods.

How long does breastfeeding take?

Each baby feeds differently: some slower, some faster. Some feedings may be longer than others depending on your baby's appetite and the time of day. Some babies may be nursing even though they appear to be sleeping. While some infants nurse for only 10 minutes on one breast, it's quite common for others to stay on one side for much longer. It's generally good to allow your baby to decide when the feeding is over—he will let go and pull back when he is done.

If your baby has fallen asleep at your breast, or if you need to stop a feeding before your baby is done, gently break the suction with your finger. Do this by slipping a finger into the corner of your baby's mouth and cheek while he is still latched on. Never pull the baby off the breast without releasing the suction.

To stimulate both breasts, alternate which breast you offer first. Some women like to keep a safety pin on their bra strap to help remember. While you should try to breastfeed evenly on both sides, many babies seem to prefer one side over the other and nurse longer on that side. When this happens, the breast adapts its milk production to your baby's feedings.

How can I tell if my baby is hungry?

You will soon get to know your baby's feeding patterns. In addition, babies may want to breastfeed for reasons other than hunger. It's OK for you to offer these "comfort feedings" as another way of meeting your baby's needs.

Nearly all newborns are alert for about 2 hours after delivery and show interest in feeding right away. Let the hospital staff know that you plan to take advantage of this opportunity—it's very important to the breastfeeding process. After 2 hours, many newborns are sleepy and hard to wake for the next day or so.

While in the hospital keeping your baby with you skin to skin will make it easier for you to recognize hunger cues and also will make it easier for your baby to be alert and feed often. Watch for the early signs of hunger. This is the time to pick your baby up, gently awaken her, check her diaper, and try to feed her. (See "Early Signs of Hunger".)

How can I tell if my baby is getting enough milk?

There are several ways you can tell whether your baby is getting enough milk. They include the following:

- Your baby has frequent wet and dirty diapers.
- Your baby appears satisfied after feeding.
- Milk is visible during feedings (leaking or dripping).
- Your baby is gaining weight after the first 4 to 5 days of life.

Your baby should have several wet or dirty diapers each day for the first few days after delivery. Beginning around the time that your milk comes in, the wet diapers should increase to 6 or more per day. At the same time, stools should start turn¬ing green, then yellow. There should be 3 or more stools per 24 hours. Typically, once breastfeeding is going well, breastfed babies have a yellow stool during or after each feeding. As your baby gets older, stools may occur less often, and after a month, may even skip a number of days. If stools are soft, and your baby is feeding and acting well, this is quite normal.

Your baby's feeding patterns are an important sign that he is feeding enough. If you add up all the feedings over the course of the day, your baby should feed at least 8 to 12 times a day. Remember, newborns feed often and will give cues or signs when they are ready to feed. The length of each feeding varies and your baby will show signs when she is finished.

When feeding well with good latch-on, the infant will suckle deeply, you will hear some swallowing, and the feeding won't be painful. The baby should appear satisfied and/or sleep until time for the next feeding. If your baby sleeps for stretches of longer than 4 hours in the first 2 weeks, wake him for a feeding. If your baby will not waken enough to eat at least 8 times per day, call your pediatrician.

Your child will be weighed at each doctor's visit. This is one of the best ways to tell how much milk your baby is getting. The AAP recommends that babies be seen for an office visit (or home visit) between 3 to 5 days of age to check on breastfeeding and baby's weight. During the first week, most infants lose several ounces of weight, but they should be back up to their birth weight by the end of the second week. Once your milk supply is established, your baby should gain between ½ and 1 ounce per day during the first 3 months.

Breastfeeding: A Natural Gift

Breast milk gives your baby more than just good nutrition. It also provides important substances to fight infection. Breastfeeding has medical and psychological benefits for both of you. For many mothers and babies, breastfeeding goes smoothly from the start. For others, it takes a little time and several attempts to get the process going effectively. Like anything new, breastfeeding takes some practice. This is perfectly normal. If you need help, ask the doctors and nurses while you are still in the hospital, your pediatrician, a lactation specialist, or a breastfeeding support group.

For more information about breastfeeding, read the AAP book *New Mother's Guide to Breastfeeding*.

Illustrations by Anthony Alex LeTourneau.

American Academy of Pediatrics

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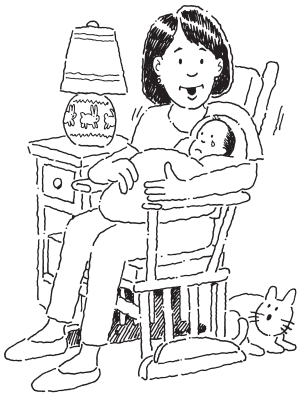
Crying and Your Baby:
How to Calm a Fussy or Colicky Baby



Babies cry for different reasons. Crying is one way babies try to tell us what they need. They may be hungry, have a soiled diaper, or just want a little attention. (See checklist at the end of this brochure.) If a crying baby cannot be comforted, the cause may be colic. Read on for more information from the American Academy of Pediatrics about colic and ways to calm a crying baby.

What is colic?

Colic is a word used to describe healthy babies who cry a lot and are hard to comfort. No one knows for sure what causes colic, but it may be an immaturity of the digestive system. In general, babies with colic will be fussy but continue to gain weight and develop normally. If you are concerned, it is best to check with your child's doctor to make sure there is not another medical cause.

Who gets colic?

About 1 out of every 5 babies develops colic. Each baby is different, but in general

- Colic starts when a baby is 2 to 4 weeks of age and usually peaks around 6 weeks.
- Colic usually starts to get better when babies are cooing and smiling sociably, around 8 weeks.
- Colic usually resolves by 3 to 4 months but can last until 6 months.

How can I tell if my baby has colic?

Here are different ways babies with colic may act.

- Crying is intense, sometimes up to 3 to 5 hours a day. Between crying episodes, babies act normal.
- Crying is often predictable, often at the same time each day. It usually occurs in the late afternoon to evening.
- When crying, babies often pass gas, pull their legs up, or stretch their legs out.

Ways to calm a fussy or colicky baby

Here are ways you can try to comfort a crying baby. It may take a few tries, but with patience and practice you'll find out what works and what doesn't for your baby.

- **Swaddle your baby** in a large, thin blanket (ask your nurse or child's doctor to show you how to do it correctly) to help her feel secure.
- **Hold your baby** in your arms and place her body either on her left side to help digestion or stomach for support. Gently rub her back. If your baby goes to sleep, remember to always lay her down in her crib on her back.
- **Turn on a calming sound.** Sounds that remind babies of being inside the womb may be calming, such as a white noise device, the humming sound of a fan, or the recording of a heartbeat.
- **Walk your baby in a body carrier or rock her.** Calming motions remind babies of movements they felt in the womb.
- **Avoid overfeeding your baby** because this may also make her uncomfortable. Try to wait at least 2 to 2½ hours from the beginning of one feeding to the next.
- **If it is not yet time to feed your baby, offer the pacifier or help your baby find her thumb or finger.** Many babies are calmed by sucking.
- **If food sensitivity is the cause of discomfort, a change in diet may help.**
  - For breastfed babies, moms may try changing their own diet. See if your baby gets less fussy if you cut down on milk products or caffeine. If there is no difference after making the dietary changes, resume your usual diet. Avoiding spicy or gassy foods like onions or cabbage has worked for some moms, but this has not been scientifically proven.
  - For bottle-fed babies, ask your child's doctor if you should try a different formula. This has been shown to be helpful for some babies.
- **Keep a diary of when your baby is awake, asleep, eating, and crying.** Write down how long it takes your baby to eat or if your baby cries the most after eating. Talk with your child's doctor about these behaviors to see if her crying is related to sleeping or eating.

Baby's Daily Log
Date:

Time	Description	Notes

- **Limit each daytime nap to no longer than 3 hours a day.** Keep your baby calm and quiet when you feed or change her during the night by avoiding bright lights and noises, such as the TV.

What your baby may need checklist

Here are some other reasons why your baby may cry and tips on what you can try to meet that need.

If your baby is…

Hungry. Keep track of feeding times and look for early signs of hunger, such as lip-smacking or moving fists to his mouth.

Cold or hot. Dress your baby in about the same layers of clothing that you are wearing to be comfortable.

Wet or soiled. Check the diaper. In the first few months, babies wet and soil their diapers a lot.

Spitting up or vomiting a lot. Some babies have symptoms from gastroesophageal reflux (GER), and the fussiness can be confused with colic. Contact your child's doctor if your baby is fussy after feeding, has excessive spitting or vomiting, and is losing or not gaining weight.

Sick (has a fever or other illness). Check your baby's temperature. If your baby is younger than 2 months and has a fever, call your child's doctor right away.

Overstimulated. See Ways to calm a fussy or colicky baby.

Bored. Quietly sing or hum a song to your baby. Go for a walk.

Parents and caregivers need breaks from crying babies

If you have tried to calm your crying baby but nothing seems to work, you may need to take a moment for yourself. Crying can be tough to handle, especially if you're physically tired and mentally exhausted.

1. Take a deep breath and count to 10.
2. Place your baby in a safe place, such as crib or playpen without blankets and stuffed animals; leave the room; and let your baby cry alone for about 10 to 15 minutes.
3. While your baby is in a safe place, consider some actions that may help calm you down.
   - Listen to music for a few minutes.
   - Call a friend or family member for emotional support.
   - Do simple household chores, such as vacuuming or washing the dishes.
4. If you have not calmed after 10 to 15 minutes, check on your baby but *do not* pick up your baby until you feel you have calmed down.
5. When you have calmed down, go back and pick up your baby. If your baby is still crying, retry soothing measures.
6. Call your child's doctor. There may be a medical reason why your baby is crying.

Try to be patient. Keeping your baby safe is the most important thing you can do. It is normal to feel upset, frustrated, or even angry, but it is important to keep your behavior under control. Remember, **it is never safe to shake, throw, hit, slam, or jerk any child**—and it never solves the problem!

From your doctor

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Fever and Your Child

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.

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.

Read on to find out more from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) about how to tell if your child has a fever and how to manage a fever.

About Fevers

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 (37.0°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 100.4°F (38.0°C) or higher a sign of a fever (see *Taking Your Child's Temperature*).

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 thirstier 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 stomachache. These signs can provide important clues as to the cause of the fever.

When to Call the Doctor

The most important things you can do when your child has a fever are to improve your child's comfort by making sure he drinks enough fluids to stay hydrated and to monitor for signs and symptoms of a serious illness. It is a good sign if your child plays and interacts with you after receiving medicine for discomfort.

Call your child's doctor right away if your child has a fever and

- Looks very ill, is unusually drowsy, or is very fussy.
- Has been in a very hot place, such as an overheated car.
- Has other symptoms, such as a stiff neck, severe headache, severe sore throat, severe ear pain, breathing difficulty, an unexplained rash, or repeated vomiting or diarrhea.
- Has immune system problems, such as sickle cell disease or cancer, or is taking steroids or other medicines that could affect his immune system.
- Has had a seizure.
- Is younger than 3 months (12 weeks) and has a temperature of 100.4°F (38.0°C) or higher.
- Temperature rises above 104.0°F (40.0°C) repeatedly for a child of any age.

Also call your child's doctor if

- Your child still "acts sick" once his fever is brought down.
- Your child seems to be getting worse.
- The fever persists for more than 24 hours in a child younger than 2 years.
- The fever persists for more than 3 days (72 hours) in a child 2 years or older.

Treating Your Child's Fever

If your infant or child is older than 6 months and has a fever, she probably does not need to be treated for the fever unless she is uncomfortable. Watch her behavior. If she is drinking, eating, and sleeping normally and is able to play, you do not need to treat the fever. Instead, you should wait to see if the fever improves by itself.

What you can do

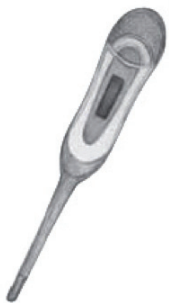
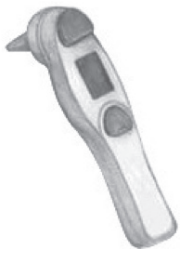
- Keep her room comfortably cool.
- Make sure that she is dressed in light clothing.
- Encourage her to drink fluids such as water, diluted juices, or a store-bought electrolyte solution.
- Be sure that she does not overexert herself.
- See *How to Improve Your Child's Comfort With Medicine.*

Taking Your Child's Temperature

While you often can tell if your child is warmer than usual by feeling his forehead, only a thermometer can tell how high the temperature is. Even if your child feels warmer than usual, you do not necessarily need to check his temperature unless he has the other signs of illness described earlier.

Always use a digital thermometer to check your child's temperature (see *Types of Digital Thermometers* for more information, including guidance on what type of thermometer to use by age). Mercury thermometers should not be used. The AAP encourages parents to remove mercury thermometers from their homes to prevent accidental exposure and poisoning.

Types of Digital Thermometers[a]

Type	How It Works	Where to Take the Temperature	Age	Notes
Digital multiuse thermometer 	Reads body temperature when the sensor located on the tip of the thermometer touches that part of the body Can be used to take rectal, oral, or axillary temperature	Rectal (in the bottom)	Birth to 1 year	• The temperature that most pediatricians consider a sign of fever (100.4°F [38.0°C] or higher) is based on taking a rectal temperature. • Label the thermometer "oral" or "rectal." Don't use the same thermometer in both places. • Taking an axillary temperature is less reliable. However, this method may be used in schools and child care centers to check (screen) a child's temperature when a child has other signs of illness. The temperature is used as a general guide.
		Oral (in the mouth)	4 to 5 years and older	
		Axillary (under the arm)	Least reliable technique, but useful for screening at any age	
Temporal artery thermometer 	Reads the infrared heat waves released by the temporal artery, which runs across the forehead just below the skin	On the side of the forehead	3 months and older Before 3 months, better as a screening device than taking axillary (armpit) temperature	May be reliable in newborns and infants younger than 3 months, according to new research
Tympanic thermometer 	Reads the infrared heat waves released by the eardrum	In the ear	6 months and older	• Not reliable for babies younger than 6 months. • When used in older children it needs to be placed correctly in the child's ear canal to be accurate. • Too much earwax can cause the reading to be incorrect.

[a] This chart includes 3 types of digital thermometers. Style and instructions may vary depending on the product. While other methods for taking your child's temperature are available, such as pacifier thermometers or fever strips, they are not recommended at this time. Ask your child's doctor for advice.

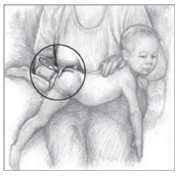
NOTE: Temperature readings may be affected by how the temperature is measured and other factors (see *What is a fever?*). Your child's temperature and other signs of illness will help your doctor recommend treatment that is best for your child.

How to Use a Digital Multiuse Thermometer

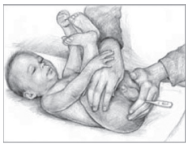
Rectal Temperature

If your infant is younger than 1 year, taking a rectal temperature gives the best reading. Here is how to take a rectal temperature.

- Clean the end of the thermometer with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. Rinse it with cool water. Do not rinse it with hot water.
- Put a small amount of lubricant, such as petroleum jelly, on the end.
- Place your child belly down across your lap or on a firm surface. Hold her by placing your palm against her lower back, just above her bottom. Or place your child face up and bend her legs to her chest. Rest your free hand against the back of the thighs.



- With the other hand, turn the thermometer on and insert it ½ inch to 1 inch into the anal opening. Do not insert it too far. Hold the thermometer in place loosely with 2 fingers, keeping your hand cupped around your child's bottom. Keep it there for about 1 minute, until you hear the "beep." Then remove and check the digital reading.



Be sure to label the rectal thermometer so it is not accidentally used in the mouth.

Oral Temperature

Once your child is 4 or 5 years of age, you can take his temperature by mouth. Here is how to take an oral temperature.

- Clean the thermometer with lukewarm soapy water or rubbing alcohol. Rinse with cool water.
- Turn the thermometer on and place the tip under your child's tongue toward the back of his mouth. Hold in place for about 1 minute, until you hear the "beep." Check the digital reading.

- For a correct reading, wait at least 15 minutes after your child has had a hot or cold drink before putting the thermometer in his mouth.

How to Improve Your Child's Comfort With Medicine

Acetaminophen and **ibuprofen** are safe and effective medicines if used as directed for improving your child's comfort, and they may also decrease her temperature. A prescription is not needed to use them, and they are available at grocery stores and drugstores. However, keep this in mind.

- Acetaminophen should not be used for newborns and infants younger than 3 months unless recommended by your infant's doctor.
- Ibuprofen should not be used for newborns and infants younger than 6 months. It should not be given to children who are vomiting constantly or are dehydrated.
- Do not use aspirin to treat your child's fever or discomfort. Aspirin has been linked with side effects such as an upset stomach, intestinal bleeding, and *Reye syndrome*. *Reye syndrome* is a serious illness that affects the liver and brain.
- If your child is vomiting and cannot take anything by mouth, a rectal suppository may be needed. Acetaminophen comes in suppository form and can help reduce discomfort in a vomiting child.
- If your child is taking other medicines check the ingredients. If they include acetaminophen or ibuprofen, let your child's doctor know.
- In 2011, manufacturers began replacing infant acetaminophen drops (80 mg/0.8 mL) with infant or children acetaminophen liquid (160 mg/5 mL). In 2017, manufacturers began making only 160 mg–strength acetaminophen chewable pills and tablets for children. Visit www.healthychildren.org/feverpain for more information. If giving acetaminophen, be sure to tell your child's doctor if you are using infant drops (80 mg/0.8 mL), infant or children liquid (160 mg/5 mL), or chewable pills or tablets for children (160 mg).

> **NOTE:** If your child is younger than 2 years, check with your child's doctor before giving any medicine. Also, before giving any medicine, read the label to make sure that you are giving the right dose for your child's age and weight.

Do Not Use Sponging to Reduce a Fever

It is not recommended that you use sponging to reduce your child's fever. There is no information that shows that sponging or tepid baths improve your child's discomfort associated with a fever or an illness. Cool or cold water can cause shivering and increase your child's temperature. Also, never add rubbing alcohol to the water. Rubbing alcohol can be absorbed into the skin or inhaled, causing serious problems such as a coma.

About Febrile Seizures

In some children younger than 6 years, fever can trigger seizures. While this can be frightening, these seizures are usually harmless. During a seizure, your child may look strange for a few minutes, shake, and then stiffen, twitch, and roll his eyes. The color of his skin may also change and appear blue. If this happens

- Place him on the floor or bed, away from any hard or sharp objects.
- Turn his head to the side so that any saliva or vomit can drain from his mouth.
- Do not put anything into his mouth, not even a finger.
- Call your child's doctor.

Your child's doctor will want to check your child, especially if it is your child's first febrile seizure. It is important to look for the cause of the febrile seizure.

If your child has had a febrile seizure in the past, treating your child with acetaminophen or ibuprofen when he has another fever will not prevent another febrile seizure from occurring. Discuss this at your child's next well-child visit.

From Your Doctor

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