

Ear Infection

Children often develop fluid in the middle ear when they have colds, allergies, or upper respiratory infections. Viruses and bacteria can infect this fluid, which can lead to pain and swelling, causing the symptoms of an ear infection. Ear infection symptoms include: pain, difficulty sleeping, poor appetite, and sometimes fever. Hearing loss may be present.

Because the infection may be caused by bacteria, treatment of ear infection may require antibiotics. If an antibiotic is prescribed, be sure your child takes it for the full duration as prescribed. Tylenol® and ibuprofen (ibuprofen only for children over six months old) can help with pain as well as fever.

Ear infections are more likely when: the child is under three years old; there is a family history of frequent ear infections; the child is in day care (or around more children than at home); there is smoking in the home. Factors that improve chances of your child not developing an ear infection: breastfeeding; no smoking in the home; bottle feed in an upright position; keeping your child up to date on immunizations.

WHEN TO CALL:

- If your child has a fever higher than 102°F
- If your child appears ill or has drainage from her ear
- If symptoms don't resolve within 2-3 days or symptoms get worse



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