

Suburban

Pediatrics

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Fever - A Symptom, Not a Sickness

It's only natural to be concerned when your child's temperature goes up. But not all fevers are a cause for worry. In fact, many fevers don't need treatment. By activating your child's immune system, a fever can actually shorten your child's illness. Normal temperature is not a specific number. Instead normal temperature usually ranges from 97° to 100.4° Fahrenheit. Body temperature also varies according to time of day, age, and physical activity. Pediatricians do not consider a fever significant unless it rises above 100.4°. Treatment is rarely required for a child older than three months who has a mild fever but no other symptoms. But if other symptoms appear along with the fever, you should call your pediatrician. For children younger than three months even a mild fever means you should call your pediatrician right away. For more information on your child's health, visit www.aap.org.