



Idaho Falls Pediatrics

2375 Coronado St., Idaho Falls, ID 83404
1645 Pancheri Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83402



Ron Porter MD • Scott Smith DO • Joseph Moore MD • Mitchael Steorts MD • Travis Christensen PA-C • Samantha Lange PA-C
(208) 522-4600 • Fax: (208) 552-7521

FEVER

A fever is any temperature greater than 100 (measured in the arm pit).

Fevers are **never** dangerous. They don't cause brain damage. They are simply a symptom of an infection. If anything they help in the infection fighting process. And often are our first clue that there is an infection going on.

A fever in a **child over 2 months old** is not concerning as long as the child is doing well (breathing, drinking and urinating well). Viral infections are infections that do not respond to antibiotics. Viral infections can cause fevers that can last 3-4 days, and as long as your child is doing well we can watch, wait, and see what other symptoms develop. If your child's symptoms become worse and you are concerned that they are getting lethargic, dehydrated, or are having any difficulty breathing, they should be evaluated. The symptoms help us understand where the infection is coming from and what would be the best way to treat it.

A fever in a **child under 2 months old** is a very different story. An older child with a serious infection will usually look seriously ill. This is not necessarily true of a baby under 2 months old. They can have a very serious and even dangerous infection and only show us very minimal signs. Therefore, the rule with babies under 2 months old is that if they have any **temperature above 100 degrees in the armpit (or rectal temperature greater than 100.5)** we should be notified right away; even if it is in the middle of the night. A fever in a newborn is considered to be serious until proven otherwise. After they are 2 months old we do not get nearly as worried about it if everything else looks good, and the fever doesn't last longer than 3-4 days.

**TYLENOL IS NOT RECOMMENDED UNTIL 2 MONTHS OLD,
MOTRIN / IBUPROFEN IS NOT RECOMMENDED UNTIL 6 MONTHS OLD.**