

Mayo Clinic Minute

When to take your child to the E.D.

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	Runny nose, sore throat and a fever. When do these symptoms in kids warrant a trip to the E.D.?
Jim Homme, M.D. Emergency medicine Mayo Clinic	“For the majority of children, parents should never use the fever as the sole indication to bring them in to the doctor.”
Vivien Williams	Dr. Jim Homme says fevers are important, but he’s more concerned about a listless child with a low temp than a more normal-acting one with a higher temp.
Jim Homme, M.D.	“So, it’s really important for a parent to look at their child and assess how they’re acting and interacting with them compared to what they normally are like,
Vivien Williams	Look for other symptoms such as difficulty breathing, poor fluid intake, severe pain, vomiting or listlessness. Be extra vigilant with newborns.
Jim Homme, M.D.	“Any temperature over 100.4 in the infant less than 2 months, sometimes three months if they haven’t had their vaccines yet, is going to be a trigger for you to bring them in.”
Vivien Williams	You should also go in if symptoms suddenly get worse. Or, if a fever goes away and comes back. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Vivien Williams.