



## FACT SHEET

### FEVER

### Pennsylvania Chapter

#### ***What is a fever?***

Fever is a well known symptom that people use to identify a child who may be ill. Fever (a rise in the body temperature above normal) is common in young children and is rarely harmful. There are many causes of fever other than illness. Exercise, environmental conditions, individual variations in baseline body temperature and teething may be associated with body temperatures above what is commonly thought to be the “normal” level.

#### ***What Can Parents and Child Care Providers Do?***

- Remove sweaters or blankets from child.
- Offer small, frequent amounts of clear liquids at room temperature.
- Give acetaminophen if you have the parent’s consent and a doctor’s written instructions for use.
- Use cool baths to decrease temperatures over 102° F that don’t drop with acetaminophen alone.

#### ***Get the child to a medical professional for evaluation right away if:***

- An infant under 8 weeks of age has a temperature of 100° F axillary or 101° F rectally.
- Any child who looks or acts very ill or seems to be getting worse quickly.
- Any child who has neck pain with movement.

**Reference:** American Academy of Pediatrics and American Public Health Association. Caring for Our Children: National health and Safety Performance Standards for Out-of-Home Child Care, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2002.

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