

# Ear Infections



**REMEMBER YOU CAN CALL 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.**

## MIDDLE EAR INFECTION

Middle ear infections are deep within the ear. They are most common in young children and often start after a cold. The inner ear tubes get clogged, and bacteria starts to grow.

### SYMPTOMS

- Your child's ear hurts. Babies may rub or tug at their ears.
- Your child has a fever and doesn't look or feel well.
- Your child may have difficulty hearing.

### WHAT TO DO?

Call your doctor. Antibiotics can help. Treat the pain with ibuprofen or Tylenol®.

## OUTER EAR INFECTION ("SWIMMER'S EAR")

Outer ear infections are in the ear canals close to the outside of the ear. They happen when water or dirt gets trapped and bacteria starts to grow.

### SYMPTOMS

- Your child's ear hurts worse when your child chews or when your child's earlobe is tugged.
- Your child may say his or her ear feels "full."
- The inside of the ear may look red or puffy.

### WHAT TO DO?

Call your doctor. Some doctors will want you to use over-the-counter "swimmer's ear" medicine. Others will want you to use prescription ear drops. Treat the pain with ibuprofen or Tylenol®. Avoid getting water in the ear until the infection is gone.



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Every Time.**  
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