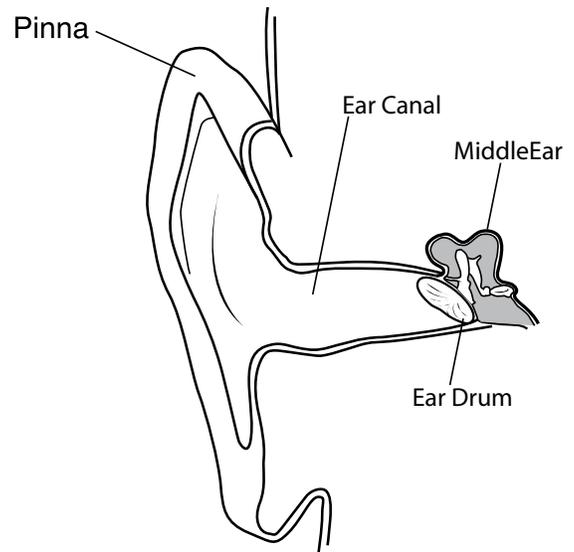


Middle Ear Infection in Children

Middle ear infection, also called otitis media, can be painful for children. This infection is caused when the fluid draining from your child's ear gets blocked. This may happen when your child has a cold, allergy, or the flu. The fluid build-up lets bacteria grow and puts pressure on your child's eardrum.



Signs of a Middle Ear Infection

- Waking up at night crying
- Rubbing or pulling of the ear
- Trouble hearing
- Not wanting to breastfeed, suck a bottle or eat because it hurts
- Fever over 101 degrees F under the arm
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Older children may complain of:

- Pain in the ear or jaw
- Ringing in the ear
- Feeling of motion or fullness in the ear
- Trouble hearing
- Dizziness

Your Child's Care

Ear infections sometimes go away on their own, but it is best to see your child's doctor if signs last more than two days.

- Your doctor will look at your child's ears and ask about his or her signs.
- Antibiotic medicine may be ordered. Be sure to give **all** of the medicine, even if your child feels well.
- Your doctor may also suggest over the counter pain medicine, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen to help with fever and pain.

Here are some ways to prevent an ear infection

- Hold your baby upright when feeding. Never prop up the bottle.
- Keep your children away from people who are smoking.
- Teach your children to wash their hands often and not to touch their eyes or runny nose.

Talk to your child's doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.