

Things to know about  
**EAR  
INFECTIONS**



**Call us first...**

- ▶ Ear infections are one of the most common childhood illnesses, although they are rarely serious.
- ▶ Pain control is important for ear infections, but treatment with antibiotics is not always necessary.
- ▶ Your child will generally not need emergency assessment for an ear infection. If you are concerned about your child or feel she may need emergency assessment, **call us first, anytime night or day.**
- ▶ Most ear infections can be managed with pain control at home.
- ▶ Your child can be seen at our office in the next 24-48 hours, or may not need to be seen urgently if the symptoms go away.
- ▶ Your child's own office/doctor is best equipped to diagnose and manage the ear infection and to monitor recurrent infections and address prevention.
- ▶ **Call us immediately, anytime, day or night**, if your child is under 2 months of age and has a fever (above 100.4 (F), if your child (at any age) has a fever greater than 105(F), or is complaining of severe ear pain even after receiving pain medication, is difficult to arouse, has a stiff neck, or looks or acts very sick.
- ▶ **Call us first, anytime, day or night**, before seeking emergency care. We can discuss pain management, whether antibiotics might be indicated and help set up a time to see your child.



*If your child is experiencing an immediate, life-threatening emergency, call 911 or go to an Emergency Room.*