



Our Family Newsletter;

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Our goal is to inspire you, to provide you with the latest health care options available, make you smile, and help you to help us fulfill our mission – to reach as many people as humanly possible, especially kids!

Fever Frenzy:

Your child is hot, flushed, glassy-eyed and obviously not well. As a mom, (I am directing this specifically towards moms, because many dads defer to their wives as being responsible for the family's health care), your diagnosis is **FEVER**. You



are very worried, concerned and can even feel a little bit of panic setting in as well. After all, you have been carefully trained to think that fever is actually something that should be treated. You are probably thinking: "No, I haven't!" Think again. If you tune to any TV station at any time, or look at any popular magazine – even National Geographic – yes, they just succumbed to the almighty pharmaceutical dollar - you will most likely see a dozen or so commercials for anti-pyretic (anti-fever) medication. Aspirin – popular a few years ago and beginning to make a comeback, Tylenol, Children's Tylenol (what is that

about?), as well as a host of others – all teaching you that fever is a bad thing – that if you want to be a good mom, you need to give these drugs to your family to combat this surge of fever! What nonsense!

So, let's look at this fever thing for just a moment. We have been taught that normal body temperature hovers around 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit (37 degrees C). Right? **WRONG!**



98.6° F only represents an *average*. Your child's body temperature can hover between 97° F and 100°F and be considered "normal." Think of it. That's a lot of heat!

Let's take our bizarre thinking a step further. At what point does 98.6 degrees F become fever? Is it 99.0 degrees? Or 99.5? How about 99.8? When does it officially become fever? You see, there is no medical standard for this figure. So if 98.6° doesn't worry a parent, why would 100°? There is not much difference between these two

figures – only 1.4 degrees! If that is the case then, why is there such a panic throughout North America regarding a child who has a fever? I will get to the answer in a few moments.



We must realize that fever is just **HEAT**. Normal body temperature is the result of your child's body working as it was meant to, under the perfect control of the computer which runs each particular program—the nervous system; the heart pumping blood, normal respiration, normal breathing, normal digestive cycles, movement of different body muscles, etc. All these activities produce WORK and work produces HEAT. Although this is fairly simplified, in reality that is exactly what takes place. If that is the case, what is fever then?

To help your child recover when he or she is fighting a flu bug for example, the nervous systems demands an increase in heat production in order to literally “burn” invading germs (bacteria, virus), which can only survive at our “normal” body temperature. Any increase in heat, therefore, kills such invading organisms. This is a good thing.

As a result of orders from the nervous system, many body activities speed up. Respiration increases, the heart rate speeds up in order to pump blood faster, breathing increases, the skin is moist and clammy and the child begins to shiver, etc. Now, just as an aside, most people do not understand what shivering really is. Let me explain. Shivering is the very rapid contraction of most of the body muscles in order to produce more work. And, more work produces . . . you guessed it, more heat. When a child is shivering, it is not necessarily because he/she is cold. It is because the nervous system makes

demands that the muscles contract, thereby increasing the work produced by the body. All of these, as well as many other bodily functions, are speeded up. This extra work produces extra heat. We call fever—simple!

If you look at all this extra activity, it has a purpose - to eliminate the invading germ and to restore normal health and order.

Let me shatter another marketing myth: As soon as a child has a fever, we are automatically programmed to think that the child is SICK! When we acknowledge that our child is sick, we are then open to all sorts of drug remedies – wonderful for the drug company bottom line. Listen up...When your child has a fever it does not necessarily mean that your child is “sick.” After all, the body is doing what it has been programmed and designed to do. This is not “sick.” This is an expression of health. How is that for a different perspective?



Let me give you an example of how miraculously your body functions. For instance, when a child has a respiratory infection, the flu, or a cold, the breathing rate increases - this is to provide extra oxygen for the body. With every extra breath your child takes in and exhales, the lungs actually get rid of the “bug,” through the process of letting air out. Along with the stale air that comes out of your child's lungs, are millions of bacteria, viruses and other invading organisms.

Your child also has a loss of appetite, which is perfectly normal. The nervous system, in order to conserve energy and deal with the infection in a more efficient manner, shuts down the digestive process. Most of the body energy is then diverted to defense rather than assimilation of food. A cough is seen as another way of getting rid of the bacteria and viruses that

have invaded his body. The skin is cold and clammy as a result of the increased sweating and perspiration – again designed to rid the body of the invading organism. Vomiting, diarrhea and nose drip are seen as the quickest way of getting rid of the virus and bacteria.

At the same time, body temperature increases to what is generally considered above normal. At this stage, there may be possible damage to the cornea of the eye, which is very heat sensitive. The body's protective measures call for a continuous washing of the eyes with tears, in order to cool down the cornea so there is no damage. Therefore, if you look at your child when he is considered "sick," the eyes will look glassy.

As you can see, this is really not "sickness." This is an expression of health. This is an expression of the innate wisdom of your child's body in knowing exactly what needs to be done at the right time and in the right amount.



Now, I never said you have to like it, but it is quite normal. This is also the point where most parents feel they have to "do something." Why? Because we have been taught that when a child is sick, we must intervene. Think about this for moment though. The most important thing here is to understand why this is happening, provide supportive care and *allow* your child's body to do what it needs to do all by itself **with no interference**. That can be tough! But think! The innate intelligence and wisdom that made your child from two cells to over 40 quadrillion in a matter of 280 days, knows exactly what that child needs, every time—as long as it is not interfered with. I don't think it is possible for that intelligence to

suddenly to abandon your child when he/she has the flu.

I want to interject for a moment – let's talk about the efficacy of OTM (over-the-counter medication) before continuing on with our discussion on fever – seems like a perfect time to talk about this issue:

Researchers who studied a variety of over-the-counter cough medicines found no evidence that they provide any significant relief. The study, conducted by researchers at the University of Bristol in England, appeared in the British Medical Journal. Reviewed were 15 drug trials involving more than 2,000 patients that compared oral over-the-counter cough medicines with placebo in adults with acute cough. In nine trials, the drugs fared no better than placebo. The positive results in the other six studies were of questionable clinical relevance, said authors. Based on their study, the researchers concluded, "Over the counter cough medicines for acute cough cannot be recommended because there is no good evidence for effectiveness. Even when trials had significant results, the effect sizes were small and of doubtful clinical relevance." Cough medicines are widely available to the public without a medical prescription in most countries, and retail sales rose by \$135 million between 1998 and 1999 in the United Kingdom alone.¹

Back to our discussion of Fever – and it brings me to another point. The height (temperature) of a fever has really no bearing on the seriousness of the condition. There is no clinical evidence that suggests that a high fever causes convulsions or brain damage. Think about this for a moment. Why would the nervous system increase temperature to injure itself? It simply makes no sense. We have been carefully taught, however, to believe this is fact - Old wives tales or an ingenious marketing plan? You decide.

Here is another ploy - why do you have to take your child's temperature when he/she is feverish? Good question—you don't. **The degree of fever is not important.** Increasing numbers of

¹ Schroeder Kurt, Fahey Tom, "Systematic review of randomised controlled trials of over the counter cough medicines for acute cough in adults," British Medical Journal, Feb. 9, 2002.

chiropractic doctors as well as physicians feel that a child's temperature should not be taken, and that taking a temperature is an unnecessary ritual, you decided for yourself.

You are probably wondering that if this is the case, then how did this fever phobia begin? Well, it was borne out of marketing efforts by the pharmaceutical industry whose aim was to teach the public that fever should be feared and treated so that sales of anti-fever medications would soar. This marketing plan was very effective and is still prevalent today. It is called profit!



So, when is it necessary to treat fever? It isn't. It is neither necessary nor wise to lower body temperature. FEVER IS NOT THE PROBLEM: it is simply the result of the body attempting to recover. Any medications taken to lower the temperature of the body will work only temporarily. Once the body excretes them, the temperature will once again increase. The reason for this is that those drugs have no real effect on the problem and therefore giving them to your children changes nothing. I would suggest that you have your child checked by a chiropractor; the goal here would be to provide your child with the optimum function of the nervous system so that it could successfully deal with the "illness."

This may surprise you: I have just recently learned that back in the 1940s in Davenport, Iowa, many chiropractors of the time were referred to as "flu doctors" and apparently, many patients would see a chiropractor in those days when they had the flu. They found that the length of time of their illness, its severity and frequency was shortened sometimes up to 80 percent.

If you must absolutely do "something" while your child is recovering,

there are a number of natural health products found in health food stores that may help your child cope with this period of time when the body is "doing its thing." There are, however, certain situations that warrant careful observation. If your child is under the age of one, and has a fever with the presence of any of the following signs, you should seek the advice of a health care professional: he/she is in severe pain and cannot be comforted, is anxious and or lethargic, whining continuously, cannot retain fluids and/or has diarrhea, has difficulty urinating, breathing, or swallowing, has an unexplained rash and has a rapid pulse rate. Any of the above or any combination thereof, indicates the body is having difficulty dealing with whatever it is handling, and I advise you to take a trip to your health care professional and seek his/her advice.

All in all, fever should be viewed as a good sign as the nervous system and immune system are doing exactly what they are designed to do. I suggest that the next time your child has a fever, understand the reason for the fever, but do not jump the gun and try to lower your child's temperature; you will actually be delaying recovery!

And while we are on the subject of fooling around with fever, etc., I thought that I would make you aware of a popular cold remedy ingredient which has been linked with strokes in women and seizures in children.

The FDA recommends that everyone stop taking anything containing **phenylpropanolamine**. It has been linked to increased hemorrhagic stroke among women ages 18-49 in the 3 days after starting the use of medication which contains this ingredient. It has also been linked with seizures in children – not a desirable side-effect!

I want to stress the point that there is no such thing as a "safe drug" – all have side-effects. The biggest difficulty is that what was considered safe yesterday, may be proven to be fatal tomorrow!

Please...if you have any questions, or would like any information on any health topic, it would be my pleasure to help you! Talk with you next month.....