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Pub. date:	Jan 2022
Review date:	Jan 2024
Issue No:	04
Clinical Lead:	

PIL.FEBCON.59967.W
21_26043



Febrile Convulsions

Information for patients
Emergency Department



Design - Medical Illustration, NHS Lanarkshire

WHAT IS A FEBRILE CONVULSION?

- ❖ This is a convulsion (fit or seizure) which can occur in some children with a high temperature.
- ❖ About 3 in 100 children will have a febrile convulsion. They usually occur before age 6

IS IT EPILEPSY?

- ❖ No – febrile convulsions are NOT epilepsy. Epilepsy causes seizures without a fever
- ❖ Febrile convulsions rarely lead to epilepsy.

DO FEBRILE CONVULSIONS CAUSE PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE?

- ❖ No. This is very unlikely

WHAT THINGS CAUSE FEBRILE CONVULSIONS?

- ❖ Any illness which causes a temperature – eg a cold or ear infection
- ❖ There is a chance a convulsion will happen again – of 10 children who have a febrile convulsion approximately 3-4 will have more than one.

IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD IS FEVERISH –

- ❖ Do not over dress your child, keep them cool
- ❖ Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids
- ❖ Give paracetamol or ibuprofen, follow instructions on label for correct dose and how often it can be given.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A FIT

- ❖ Keep calm. It is very frightening when your child has a fit, but they will not be aware of what is happening.
- ❖ Do not hold your child down when he/she is having a fit
- ❖ Lay your child on his/her side on the floor to prevent choking or accidental injury.
- ❖ Do not put anything in your child's mouth.
- ❖ Make a note of how long the fit lasted and seek medical advice.