



Education

Bronchiolitis Brief Version

What is bronchiolitis?

Children most often get this disease between 6 months and 2 years of age. If your child has bronchiolitis:

- Your child may wheeze (make a high-pitched whistling sound when breathing).
- Your child may breathe rapidly (over 40 breaths per minute).
- Your child may have a cough and cough up a very sticky mucus.

A virus narrows the small airways of the lungs (the bronchioles.) This causes your child to wheeze. Your child may get an ear infection too. A few children may need to stay in the hospital.

How can I take care of my child?

- **It may help to give your child asthma-type medicine.** About 1/3 of children with bronchiolitis are helped by asthma medicines. Your child's medicine is _____. Give _____ every _____ hours. Keep up with the medicine until your child does not wheeze for 24 hours. If your child has a high fever, give acetaminophen (Tylenol) every 4 to 6 hours or ibuprofen (Advil) every 6 to 8 hours. No aspirin.
- **Use a humidifier.** Moist air can help. Dry air tends to make coughs worse.
- **Make sure your child's nose is not blocked up.** If the nose is blocked up, your child will not be able to drink from a bottle or breast-feed. Put three drops of warm water or saline in each nostril. After about 1 minute, use a soft rubber suction bulb to suck out the mucus.
- **Make sure your child drinks enough fluids.**

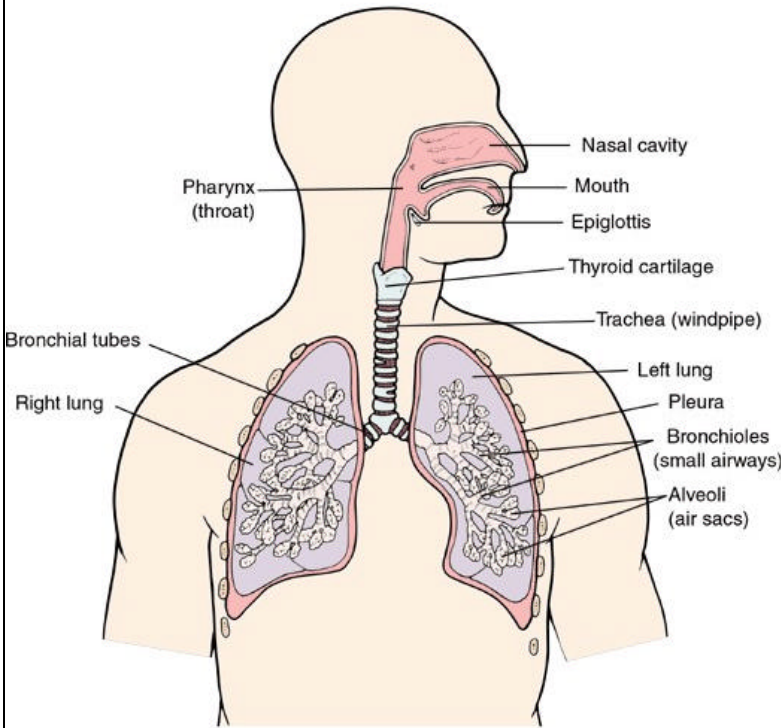
Call your child's doctor right away if:

- Your child has a hard time breathing.
- The wheezing gets very bad.
- Your child is breathing faster than 60 breaths per minute.
- Your child is acting very sick.

Call your child's doctor within 24 hours if:

- Any fever lasts more than 3 days.
- You have any other questions or concerns.

Respiratory System



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