

# ROSEOLA



## WHAT IS ROSEOLA?

Roseola is an infection caused by a virus. The infection is common in children aged 6 to 24 months. It is rare in children younger than 4 months or older than 4 years.

Roseola starts out with a fever. After several days, the fever disappears and a rash appears mainly on the child's face and body. The rash consists of small red spots which last for a day or two.

Most children are not very sick during the fever stage of the infection. In some children the fever is very high and causes febrile seizures (or convulsions).

It is difficult to diagnose roseola until the rash has appeared. A physician can tell if the child's fever is due to roseola or some other more serious infection.

Roseola is not very infectious. It is not known how it spreads from person to person. Children with roseola get better without any treatment and complications are rare.

## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- Watch your child for signs of roseola if another child has it.
- Contact your physicians if your child develops a fever.
- Your child may continue attending the childcare facility if feeling well enough to take part in their activities. If your child has roseola, make sure you tell the staff.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or visit [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org)

Source: Canadian Paediatric Society