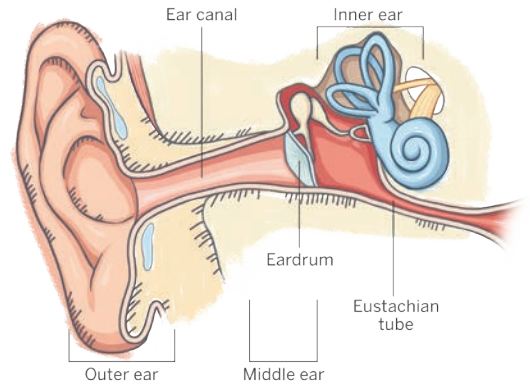


# All about ear pain

There are many reasons children could have earaches. Sometimes, the problem is in the inner ear, which is behind the eardrum. Other times, the pain is coming from the middle ear, ear canal, or outer ear.



## Causes of ear pain

- Buildup of ear wax can cause pain
- Air pressure, like on an airplane, can make the eardrum hurt
- Your child may have put something small in their ear, causing pressure or a scratch
- The inner or middle ear could be infected
- The ear canal could be irritated or infected (swimmer's ear)



## Swimmer's ear

- Swimmer's ear mostly happens to children who spend a lot of time in the water
- Water gets trapped in the ear canal, making it itchy
- If germs start to grow, the canal will get infected and begin to hurt
- Try keeping your child's ear canal as dry as possible during the healing process, and always dry the ears with a towel right away after swimming or bathing



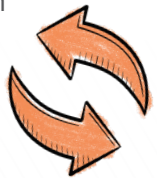
## Ear infection

- Children have shorter eustachian tubes than adults, which lets germs find their way into the middle ear more easily
- When germs get behind the eardrum, they cause fluid to build up, which can hurt
- Ear infections often happen when a child has a sore throat or a cold
- A doctor can tell if your child has an ear infection by looking at the eardrum through an instrument called an otoscope



## If your child has ear pain often

- You're not alone. One in five children has ear infections often
- Sometimes fluid stays trapped in the ear after an infection, making it easier for germs to come back
- If your child has frequent infections, your doctor may decide to put them on a low dose of antibiotics



## How can you soothe ear pain?

- Ask your child's doctor about using TYLENOL® or MOTRIN®
- Put a warm or cold wet washcloth on the outer ear for 20 minutes

**Talk to your doctor if you have any questions or concerns about your child's earache.**