A WORLD WITHOUT MALARIA

Children and Malaria

Children under 5 are most at risk. You can protect them.

Why are children at risk?

Young children have not yet built up protection against malaria. Malaria can make them very sick, very fast.

In Africa, 3 out of 4 people who die from malaria are children under 5.

Protect your child every day

- Your child should sleep under a treated mosquito net every night, all year.
- Tuck the net in under the mattress or mat.
- Empty or cover water near the house every week. This stops mosquitoes growing.
- Take your child for all their clinic visits. Ask about malaria vaccines and malaria medicine to prevent sickness. Many countries now give these to young children.

Know the signs

Fever (hot body), shaking, crying more than usual, not eating, vomiting.

If your child has a fever, get a malaria test the same day.

Danger signs: go to the clinic NOW

- Fits (shaking of the whole body)
- Very sleepy, or hard to wake up
- Cannot drink or breastfeed
- Vomiting everything
- Fast or hard breathing
- Very pale skin, palms or eyelids (weak blood)

After malaria

Give all the medicine, even when your child feels better. Give good food and lots of water.

Watch for weak blood. Children who are pale and tired need to see a health worker.

Learn more

Watch Episode 12, **Malaria and Children**, from our free cartoon series *A World Without Malaria*.

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This guide gives general information only. Always follow a health worker's advice.

Sources: WHO Malaria fact sheet (December 2025); WHO World Malaria Report 2025; A World Without Malaria study guide, chapter 12. © Buzz Off, a project of Australian Mercy (ABN 84 008 643 258). Free to copy and share.