

RASH COMPARISON CHART COMMON CHILDHOOD RASHES

	Fever	Itching	Rash Elevation	Color	Location	Duration of Problem	Other
Meningococcal Meningitis	Yes, high fever	No	Tiny red or purple spots; sometimes the rash looks like pinpoint bruises. This rash is an important sign that this person needs to see a doctor immediately. This is an emergency!	Red or purple	Armpits, groins and ankles, areas where elastic pressure is applied (like underwear or socks)	Until treated	Intense headache; stiff neck, shoulders or back; nausea or vomiting; irritable; confused; drowsy or comatose
Poison Ivy	No	Intense	Blisters are elevated	Red	Exposed areas	7-14 days	Oozing; some swelling
Eczema	No	Moderate	Occasional blisters when infected	Red	Elbows, wrists, knees, cheeks	Until controlled	Moist, oozing
Chickenpox	Yes	Intense during pustular stage	Flat, then raised, then blisters, then crusts	Red	May start anywhere; most prominent on trunk and face	4-10 days	Lesions progress from flat to tiny blisters, become crusted
Measles	Yes	None to mild	Flat	Pink then red	First face, then chest and abdomen; then arms and legs	4-7 days	Preceded by fever, cough, red eyes
Fifth Disease	Yes	No	Flat, lacy appearance	Red	First face; then arms and legs, then rest of body	3-7 days	"Slapped-cheek" appearance. Rash comes and goes
Roseola	Yes	No	Flat, occasionally with few bumps	Red	First trunk; then arms and neck; very little on face and legs	1-2 days	High fever for 3 days which disappears with rash
Scarlet Fever	Yes	No	Flat, feels like sandpaper	Red	First face; then elbows; spreads rapidly to entire body in 24 hours	5-7 days	Sore throat. Skin peeling afterwards, especially palms