

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Febrile Seizures

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Source

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). [Febrile Seizures Information Page](#).

Febrile seizures are convulsions or seizures in infants or small children that are brought on by a fever or febrile illness. The seizures may come before the fever. Most often during a febrile seizure, a child loses consciousness and shakes uncontrollably. Less commonly, a child becomes rigid or has twitches in only a portion of the body. Most febrile seizures last a minute or two; some can be as brief as a few seconds, while others may last for more than 15 minutes. Approximately one in every 25 children will have at least one febrile seizure. Febrile seizures usually occur in children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years, with the risk peaking in the second year of life. The older a child is when the first febrile seizure occurs, the less likely that child is to have more febrile seizures as they will spend less time in the age group at risk. A few factors appear to boost a child's risk of having recurrent febrile seizures, including a family history of febrile seizures in a first- or second-degree relative, a young age (less than 18 months) at the first febrile seizure, having a lower peak temperature during the illness when the febrile seizure occurs, and the febrile seizure occurring within an hour of recognized fever.