

# Failure to Thrive

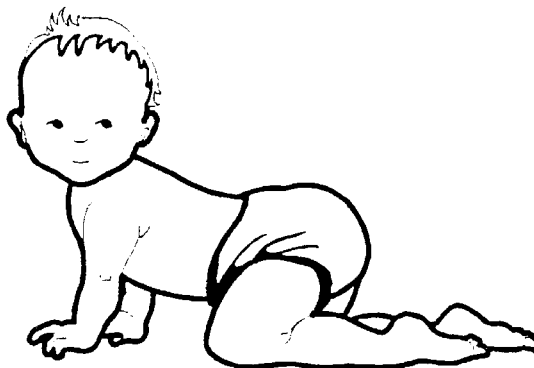
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## WHAT IS FAILURE TO THRIVE?

Some children may be naturally small. However, other children may be small because of underlying medical problems. Babies and small children under 3 years old who do not grow, or who grow at a very slow rate, may have a medical condition called “failure to thrive.”

## WHAT CAUSES FAILURE TO THRIVE?

Many factors might cause failure to thrive. Some factors are caused by illness, and are relatively rare. These factors might include gastrointestinal diseases, chromosome defects, kidney disease, or chronic infection. The more common factors include inadequate nutrient and calorie intake, environmental stress, emotional deprivation, or even abuse.



## HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD GROW PROPERLY?

Failure to thrive occurs when a child does not eat enough calories. Proper nutrition helps children catch up to their peers in terms of size and weight, and helps them continue to grow.

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## HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD IS GROWING?

You should weigh your child every day to make sure that his or her weight is the same or is increasing. You should:

- Weigh your child without his or her clothes on
- Use the same scale every day
- Weigh your child at the same time every day

If your child has lost weight, you should call your doctor or nurse as soon as possible on that day. You should also call the doctor if:

- your child has a fever of more than 100°F (rectal) or 102°F (under the arm)
- your child is throwing up
- your child can't swallow food
- your child is crying without stopping

### NOTES: