

Lightning Learning: Bronchiolitis in Children

STOP!

Bronchiolitis is a viral respiratory tract infection affecting the lower airways.

Signs & symptoms?

Children up to 2 years (most commonly <12 months) with...

- Cough & coryzal prodrome
- Tachypnoea +/- chest recession
- Wheeze or crackles
- Fever (usually <39°C)

Consider alternate diagnosis?

Pneumonia... fever >39°C and/or focal crackles

Congenital Heart Defects... SpO₂ not responding to O₂ and/or signs of congestive heart failure

LOOK

When to admit?

Apnoeas (observed or reported).
Persistent O₂ sats in room air...



<92% if **under** 6 weeks

<90% if **over** 6 weeks

Decreased oral fluid intake <50% normal volume.

Persisting severe respiratory distress or RR >70/min.

Treatment?

- O₂ supplementation
- Consider CPAP for impending respiratory failure
- NG feeds if not tolerating by mouth
- IV fluids if not tolerating NG feeds or impending respiratory failure

LEARN

Safety net advice...

Symptoms often peak day 3-5, caregivers should represent if concerned about their child.

Provide both **verbal** and **written** advice.

Local bronchiolitis guideline
<https://bit.ly/3CTEEfz> (UHL)

National bronchiolitis guidance
<https://bit.ly/3yZcSfc> (NICE)

Safety netting for bronchiolitis
<https://bit.ly/3gcPWSg> (DFTB)

