

3 years old, react more severely to acute respiratory tract infections than older children. Young children display a number of generalized signs and symptoms as well as local manifestations ([Box 21-1](#)).

### **Box 21-1**

## **Signs and Symptoms Associated with Respiratory Tract Infections in Infants and Small Children**

### **Fever**

May be absent in neonates (<28 days)

Greatest at 6 months old to 3 years old

May reach 39.5° to 40.5° C (103° to 105° F) even with mild infections

Often appears as first sign of infection

May lead to listlessness and irritability, with altered activity pattern (usually decreased)

Tendency to develop high temperatures with infection in certain families

May precipitate febrile seizure (see [Chapter 27](#))

### **Poor Feeding and Anorexia**

Common with most childhood illnesses

Frequently the initial evidence of illness

Persists to a greater or lesser degree throughout febrile stage of illness; often extends into convalescence

### **Vomiting**

Common in small children with illness