

with acute respiratory tract infection is outlined in the [Nursing Care Plan](#) box.

## Nursing Care Plan

### The Child with Acute Respiratory Tract Infection

#### Case Study

Sarah is a 7-month-old who is being evaluated in the emergency room for fever and cough. Mom reports over the past 2 days that Sarah has not been as active as usual and has been eating less. She started coughing during the night and upon awakening was noted to have a temperature of 103° F.

#### Assessment

Based on these events, what are the most important subjective and objective data that should be assessed?

#### Acute Respiratory Tract Infection Defining Characteristics

Usually high fever, tachypnea, tachycardia

Retractions

Nasal flaring

Dyspnea (reported by older children)

Breath sounds—usually rhonchi or fine crackles

Cough—productive or nonproductive

Skin color—pallor or cyanosis depending on severity

Irritable, restless, or lethargic

#### Nursing Diagnosis

Ineffective breathing pattern

Ineffective airway clearance