

Children's Responses to Pain at Various Ages

Newborn and Young Infant

- Uses crying
- Reveals facial appearance of pain (brows lowered and drawn together, eyes tightly closed, and mouth open and squarish)
- Exhibits generalized body response of rigidity or thrashing, possibly with local reflex withdrawal from what is causing the pain
- Shows no relationship between what is causing the pain and subsequent response

Older Infant

- Uses crying
- Shows a localized body response with deliberate withdrawal from what is causing the pain
- Reveals expression of pain or anger
- Demonstrates a physical struggle, especially pushing away from what is causing the pain

Young Child

- Uses crying and screaming
- Uses verbal expressions, such as "Ow," "Ouch," or "It hurts"
- Uses thrashing of arms and legs to combat pain
- Attempts to push what is causing the pain away before it is applied
- Displays lack of cooperation; need for physical restraint