

Infants and Young Children

Classic picture (above) rarely seen in children between 3 months and 2 years old

Fever

Poor feeding

Vomiting

Marked irritability

Frequent seizures (often accompanied by a high-pitched cry)

Bulging fontanel

Nuchal rigidity possible

Brudzinski and Kernig signs not helpful in diagnosis

Difficult to elicit and evaluate in this age group

Subdural empyema (*H. influenzae* infection)

Neonates

Specific Signs

Child well at birth but within a few days begins to look and behave poorly

Refuses feedings

Poor sucking ability

Vomiting or diarrhea

Poor tone

Lack of movement