

The Immune System

The immune system protects your child's body from outside invaders. These include germs such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi, and toxins (chemicals made by microbes). The immune system is made up of different organs, cells, and proteins that work together

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There are 2 main parts of the immune system:

- **The innate immune system.** You are born with this.
- **The adaptive immune system.** You develop this when your body is exposed to microbes or chemicals released by microbes.

These 2 immune systems work together.

The innate immune system

This is your child's rapid response system. It is the first to respond when it finds an invader. It is made up of the skin, the eye's cornea, and the mucous membrane that lines the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and genitourinary tracts.

These all create physical barriers to help protect your child's body. They protect against harmful germs, parasites (such as worms), or cells (such as cancer). The innate immune system is inherited. It is active from the moment your child is born. When this system recognizes