OSCE checklist for child health nursing: fever advice

OSCE checklist for child health nursing: febrile child safety-netting explains what worsening illness can look like and how a caregiver should obtain further help. Use this original practice checklist with your course guidance and supervised skills teaching.

Numbered practice steps

1. Confirm the child's identity and introduce your student role. Explain the task in suitable language, check who can consent under the applicable law, and seek the child's agreement as appropriate. Explain privacy and its limits before sensitive questions. Use hand hygiene and appropriate protective equipment before contact.
2. Confirm the assessment and clinical plan before giving discharge advice. Ask what the caregiver thinks is wrong and whether they feel able to care for the child.
3. Explain that behaviour, breathing, feeding and hydration matter as well as temperature. Do not promise safety because a temperature falls after medicine.
4. Discuss urgent warning signs from the child's plan, including breathing difficulty, reduced responsiveness, a non-blanching rash or dehydration. A baby under 3 months with a temperature of 38°C or higher needs urgent medical assessment, even if otherwise settled.
5. Give the appropriate urgent and routine contact routes for the setting. Explain when to seek reassessment if the child worsens or the caregiver becomes more worried.
6. Use teach-back to check the plan and offer accessible written advice. Record the advice, planned review and any barriers such as transport or language.
7. Close by checking understanding, ensuring comfort and cleaning your hands and equipment as appropriate. Document findings and hand over any unresolved safety concern to the supervising practitioner.

Common omissions

Advice simply to return if worse leaves the caregiver guessing. Do not recommend alternating medicines or supply doses from memory. A worried caregiver who cannot access help needs a workable contact plan.

Try an original practice task

Ask a partner to repeat the warning signs and contact route in their own words. If their answer is unclear, explain again without blaming them for misunderstanding.

These steps support learning, rather than authorising independent treatment. Follow your school's task and local policy; ask for help when a decision exceeds your competence.

Related nursing practice

Return to child health nursing OSCE practice or use the full checklist directory.

For a related communication exercise, try the fever advice practice station. Its task and clinical setting may differ from this checklist.

Common questions

Is this a school marking sheet?

No. This is an original learning checklist. Your school sets the task and assessment criteria.

Can I print this checklist?

Yes. Use the PDF download on this page for practice.

Sources

- NMC: The Code
- NICE NG143: fever in children

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.