



CHILDHOOD EXANTHEMS

Rash Buzzwords

Rash	Location	Appearance	Symptoms	Length
Measles	Starts on the face, behind the ears, spreads caudally	Blanching	Cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, Koplik spots, fever, malaise, generalized lymphadenopathy	~5 Days
Scarlet Fever	Starts on the neck, spreads to head and caudally	Blanching, sandpaper like	Pastia lines, strawberry tongue, pharyngitis, high fever with sudden onset	~2-4 weeks
Fifth Disease	Starts on face, spreads to trunk and extremities	"Slapped cheek", lace-like, reticular, worse after sun/heat exposure	Arthritis	~1 week
Roseola	Starts on trunk and spreads distally	Blanching, Nagayama spots	High fever - rash develops after it subsides	~hours-3 days
Chickenpox	Starts on face, trunk, and proximal limbs; spreads to palms, soles and mucous membranes	Vesicular and crusted papules at different stages, "Starry Sky"	Pruritus	~1 week
Rubella	Starts behind the ears, spreads to trunk and extremities	Blanching, Forchheimer sign	Sub-occipital and pre-auricular lymphadenopathy	~3 days
Hand, foot, and mouth disease	On the hands, feet, and face, rarely generalizes	Tender macules, vesicles	Stomatitis, fever	~4 days

Helpful Resources

Rashes on different skin tones: [Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology](#)

User-submitted photos of rashes on different skin tones: [Brown Skin Matters](#)

Most common pediatric diagnoses: [Harriet Lane Handbook](#)