



Blood counts

<p><u>HEMOGLOBIN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry oxygen to the body • Allow food to be used for energy • Provide color to the skin and nail beds 	<p><i>Normal level</i> 11-14</p> <p><i>OK level</i> Greater than 8</p> <p><i>May need a blood transfusion</i> 8 or less</p>	<p>Special care for low levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for signs, such as feeling very tired with no energy, very irritable and pale cheeks and lips • Watch for signs of a very low level, such as headaches, dizziness, fast heart rate or shortness of breath • May need extra rest or rest periods • May need a blood transfusion
<p><u>PLATELETS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent bleeding • Help clotting with injury 	<p><i>Normal level</i> 150,000-450,000</p> <p><i>OK Level</i> Greater than 100,000</p> <p><i>Low level, watch closely</i> Less than 50,000</p> <p><i>May need a platelet transfusion</i> 20,000 or less</p>	<p>Special care for low levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for signs of bleeding, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy or bad bruising - Unusual bleeding (petechiae) - Bleeding longer than normal - Bleeding longer than normal with menstrual period - Blood in urine, stool (poop) or vomit (throw up) - Put pressure on area of bleeding for 5-20 minutes to stop it
<p><u>NEUTROPHILS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A type of white blood cell that fights bacterial infections 	<p><i>Normal level</i> 1,500-3,500</p> <p><i>OK level</i> Greater than 1,000 (or 1.000)</p> <p><i>Low level (neutropenic)</i> Less than 500 (or 0.5)</p>	<p>Special care for low levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for fever (call with temp at 100.4 F or greater) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not give Tylenol® for a fever, unless instructed • Watch wounds for signs of infection, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redness, tenderness, warmth, swelling, drainage

Blood products and transfusions

The decision to give your child a blood product (transfusion) is made on a case-by-case basis, depending on blood cell levels and your child's diagnosis. If your child is due for a spinal tap or other procedure, such as surgery, a blood or platelets transfusion may be needed to make the procedure safer. If a transfusion is required, your child may go to the infusion center or to the inpatient unit to receive it.