

Mayo Clinic Minute

Understanding childhood eczema

Video	Audio
	This little guy has done this nightly ritual since before he could walk. Like 20 percent of kids, Max has an overactive immune system.
Dawn Davis, M.D. Dermatology Mayo Clinic	“Eczema, better known as atopic dermatitis, is a sensitivity of the skin that happens because the immune system is hyperaware.”
	Mayo Clinic dermatologist Dr. Dawn Davis says sometimes these patients have abnormal or partially functioning protein structures in their skin structure.
	For instance, your immune system recognizes something different or foreign on your skin.
	“The robust immune system can sense this difference and releases chemicals due to stimulation it sees. That causes the skin to break down. The chemicals released by the immune system cause the local nerves and blood vessels to become irritated.”
	And that leads to lots of redness of skin and lots of itch. That’s where lotions can really help. Dr. Davis also recommends seeing a dermatologist for advanced care.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Vivien Williams reporting.