When children repeatedly experience the symptoms of acid indigestion (commonly called “heartburn”), they may have a problem with their digestive system. Acid indigestion can be caused by the contents of the stomach backing up into the esophagus. This is referred to as gastroesophageal reflux.

An article in the July 19, 2000, issue of JAMA discusses the possibility of a genetic link for severe gastroesophageal reflux in children. You should consult your doctor if you think that you or your child has any persistent health problems or complaints. Your doctor can provide strategies or medical treatments for controlling the disorder.