

Medicines and Dosages to Reduce Pain and Fever

Choose the proper medicine, and measure the dose accurately.

1. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist which medicine is best for your child.
2. Give the dose based on your child's weight. If you don't know your child's weight, give the dose based on your child's age. Do not give more medicine than is recommended.
3. If you have questions about dosage amounts or any other concerns, call your healthcare provider.
4. Always use a proper measuring device. For example:



- When giving acetaminophen liquid (e.g., Tylenol), use the cup enclosed in the package. If you misplace the cup, consult your healthcare provider or pharmacist for advice. Kitchen spoons are not accurate measures.
- When giving ibuprofen liquid (e.g., Advil, Motrin), use the device enclosed in the package. Never use a kitchen spoon!

Take these two steps to avoid causing a serious medication overdose in your child.

1. Don't give your child a larger amount of acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol) or ibuprofen (e.g., Motrin, Advil) than is shown in the table below. Too much of any of these medicines can cause an overdose.
2. When you give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen, don't also give them over-the-counter (OTC) cough or cold medicines. This can also cause a medication overdose because cough and cold medicines often contain acetaminophen or ibuprofen. In fact, to be safe, don't give OTC cough and cold medicines to your child unless you talk to your child's healthcare provider first.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol or another brand): How much to give?

Give every 4 to 6 hours, as needed, no more than 5 times in 24 hours (unless directed to do otherwise by your healthcare provider).

CHILD'S WEIGHT	CHILD'S AGE	OLD FORMULATION INFANTS' DROPS 160 mg in each 5 mL	INFANTS' NEW FORMULATION OR CHILDREN'S LIQUID 160 mg in 5 mL (1 tsp) Kitchen spoons are not accurate measures.	CHILDREN'S CHEWABLES 80 mg in each tab	JUNIOR STRENGTH 160 mg in each tab
6–11 lbs (2.7–5 kg)	0–3 mos	Advised dose*	Advised dose*		
12–17 lbs (5.5–7.7 kg)	4–11 mos	Advised dose*	½ teaspoon or 2.5 mL		
18–23 lbs (8.2–10.5 kg)	12–23 mos	Advised dose*	¾ teaspoon or 3.75 mL		
24–35 lbs (10.9–15.9 kg)	2–3 yrs	Advised dose*	1 teaspoon or 5 mL	2 tablets	
36–47 lbs (16.4–21.4 kg)	4–5 yrs	Advised dose*	1½ teaspoon or 7.5 mL	3 tablets	
48–59 lbs (21.8–26.8 kg)	6–8 yrs	Advised dose*	2 teaspoons or 10 mL	4 tablets	2 tablets
60–71 lbs (27.3–32.3 kg)	9–10 yrs	Advised dose*	2½ teaspoons or 12.5 mL	5 tablets	2½ tablets
72–95 lbs (32.7–43.2 kg)	11 yrs	Advised dose*	3 teaspoons or 15 mL	6 tablets	3 tablets

Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, or another brand): How much to give?

Give every 6 to 8 hours, as needed, no more than 4 times in 24 hours (unless directed to do otherwise by your healthcare provider).

CHILD'S WEIGHT	CHILD'S AGE	INFANTS' DROPS 50 mg in each 1.25 mL	CHILDREN'S LIQUID 100 mg in 5 mL (1 tsp)	CHILDREN'S CHEWABLES OR JUNIOR TABLETS 100 mg in each tab
less than 11 lbs (5 kg)	0–5 mos		Advised dose*	
12–17 lbs (5.5–7.7 kg)	6–11 mos	1.25 mL	Advised dose*	
18–23 lbs (8.2–10.5 kg)	12–23 mos	1.875 mL	Advised dose*	
24–35 lbs (10.9–15.9 kg)	2–3 yrs		1 teaspoon or 5 mL	1 tablets
36–47 lbs (16.4–21.4 kg)	4–5 yrs		1½ teaspoon or 7.5 mL	1½ tablets
48–59 lbs (21.8–26.8 kg)	6–8 yrs		2 teaspoons or 10 mL	2 tablets
60–71 lbs (27.3–32.3 kg)	9–10 yrs		2½ teaspoons or 12.5 mL	2½ tablets
72–95 lbs (32.7–43.2 kg)	11 yrs		3 teaspoons or 15 mL	3 tablets

* HEALTHCARE PROVIDER: PLEASE FILL IN THE ADVISED DOSE.