

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 device enclosed in the package. If you misplace the device, 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 be extremely dangerous.
2. When you give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen, don't also give them over-the-counter cough or cold medicines. This can cause a medication overdose because cough and cold medicines often contain acetaminophen or ibuprofen. In fact, to be safe, don't ever give over-the-counter 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 FORMULATIONS infants' drops 80 mg in each 0.8 mL or in each 1.0 mL	Infants' New formulation or children's liquid 160 mg in each 5 mL (1 tsp) <small>Kitchen spoons are not accurate measures.</small>	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	No longer available for purchase in the U.S. Please discard old product.	¼ teaspoon or 1.25 mL		
12–17 lbs (5.5–7.7 kg)	4–11 mos		½ teaspoon or 2.5 mL		
18–23 lbs (8.2–10.5 kg)	12–23 mos		¾ teaspoon or 3.75 mL		
24–35 lbs (10.9–15.9 kg)	2–3 yrs		1 teaspoon or 5 mL	2 tablets	
36–47 lbs (16.4–21.4 kg)	4–5 yrs		1½ teaspoon or 7.5 mL	3 tablets	
48–59 lbs (21.8–26.8 kg)	6–8 yrs		2 teaspoons or 10 mL	4 tablets	2 tablets
60–71 lbs (27.3–32.3 kg)	9–10 yrs		2½ teaspoons or 12.5 mL	5 tablets	2½ tablets
72–95 lbs (32.7–43.2 kg)	11 yrs		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 each 5 mL (1 tsp)  <small>Kitchen spoons are not accurate measures.</small>	OLD FORMULATION children's chewables 50 mg in each tab	children's chewables or junior tablets 100 mg in each tab
less than 11 lbs (5 kg)	0–5 mos	Do not use in children under 6 months of age		No longer available for purchase in the U.S. Please discard old product.	
12–17 lbs (5.5–7.7 kg)	6–11 mos	1.25 mL	½ teaspoon or 2.5 mL		
18–23 lbs (8.2–10.5 kg)	12–23 mos	1.875 mL	¾ teaspoon or 3.75 mL		
24–35 lbs (10.9–15.9 kg)	2–3 yrs		1 teaspoon or 5 mL		1 tablet
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	