

Medicines for Fever or Pain Relief

Acetaminophen

Acetaminophen is available without a prescription. Children older than 2 months of age can be given any one of the acetaminophen products (such as, Tylenol). They all have the same dosage. Give the correct dosage for your child's weight every 4 to 6 hours.

Weight	Type (Dosage Form)	Dose	May Give Every
10-11 pounds	drops (80 mg/0.8ml)	1/2 dropper	4-6 hours
12-17 pounds	drops (80 mg/0.8ml) syrup (160 mg/5 ml)	1 dropper 1/2 tsp	4-6 hours
18-23 pounds	drops (80 mg/0.8ml) syrup (160 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (80 mg)	1+1/2 dropper 3/4 tsp 1+1/2 tablets	4-6 hours
24-35 pounds	drops (80 mg/0.8ml) syrup (160 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (80 mg) chewable tablets (160 mg)	2 droppers 1 tsp 2 tablets 1 tablet	4-6 hours
36-47 pounds	drops (80 mg/0.8ml) syrup (160 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (80 mg) chewable tablets (160 mg)	3 droppers 1+1/2 tsp 3 tablets 1+1/2 tablet	4-6 hours
48-59 pounds	syrup (160 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (80 mg) chewable tablets (160 mg)	2 tsp 4 tablets 2 tablet	4-6 hours
60-71 pounds	syrup (160 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (80 mg) chewable tablets (160 mg) adult tablets (325 mg)	2+1/2 tsp 5 tablets 2+1/2 tablets 1 tablet	4-6 hours
72-95 pounds	syrup (160 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (80 mg) chewable tablets (160 mg) adult tablets (325 mg)	3 tsp 6 tablets 3 tablets 1 to 1+1/2 tablets	4-6 hours
96+ pounds	syrup (160 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (80 mg) chewable tablets (160 mg) adult tablets (325 mg)	4 tsp 8 tablets 4 tablets 2 tablets	4-6 hours

Abbreviations: mg = milligrams ml = milliliter tsp = teaspoon

Suppositories: Acetaminophen is also available as a rectal suppository in 120-mg, 325-mg, and 650-mg dosages. Suppositories are useful if a child with a fever is vomiting often or having seizures caused by the fever. Use the same dose as listed above for the suppository. Most suppositories can be cut (for example, cut in half) to supply the right dose for your child's age.

Ibuprofen

Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) is available without a prescription. Give the correct dosage for your child's weight every 6 to 8 hours.

Weight	Type (Dosage Form)	Dose	May Give Every
12-17 pounds	drops (50 mg/1.25 ml)	1 dropper	6-8 hours
18-23 pounds	drops (50 mg/1.25 ml) liquid (100mg/5ml) chewable tablets (50 mg)	1+1/2 dropper 3/4 tsp 1+1/2 tablets	6-8 hours
24-35 pounds	drops (50 mg/1.25 ml) liquid (100 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (50 mg) chewable tablets (100 mg)	2 droppers 1 tsp 2 tablets 1 tablet	6-8 hours
36-47 pounds	drops (50 mg/1.25 ml) liquid (100 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (50 mg) chewable tablets (100 mg)	3 droppers 1+1/2 tsp 3 tablets 1+1/2 tablet	6-8 hours
48-59 pounds	liquid (100 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (50 mg) chewable tablets (100 mg)	2 tsp 4 tablets 2 tablets	6-8 hours
60-71	liquid (100 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (50 mg) chewable tablets (100 mg)	2+1/2 tsp 5 tablets 2+1/2 tablets	6-8 hours
72-95 pounds	liquid (100 mg/5 ml) chewable tablets (50 mg) chewable tablets (100 mg) adult tablets (200 mg)	3 tsp 6 tablets 3 tablets 1+1/2 tablets	6-8 hours
96+ pounds	liquid (100 mg/5ml) chewable tablets (50 mg) chewable tablets (100 mg) adult tablets (200 mg)	4 tsp 8 tablets 4 tablets 2 tablets	6-8 hours

Abbreviations: mg = milligrams ml = milliliter tsp = teaspoon

Alternating or Combining Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen

If instructed by your health care provider to alternate ibuprofen and acetaminophen, do it as follows:

- Alternate doses of ibuprofen and acetaminophen every 4 hours.
- Alternate medicines for only 24 hours or less, then return to a single product.

Combining acetaminophen and ibuprofen is generally not recommended. Combining can cause confusion, dosage errors, and poisoning.

Avoid Aspirin

Children (through age 21 years) should not take aspirin if they have chickenpox or influenza (any cold, cough, or sore throat symptoms). This recommendation is based on several studies that have linked aspirin to Reye's syndrome, a severe encephalitislike illness. Most pediatricians have stopped using aspirin for fevers associated with any illness.

Written by B.D. Schmitt, M.D., author of "Your Child's Health," Bantam Books.

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