

Using over-the-counter medicine

- Check the type, strength and dose of the medicine several times before giving it to your child. These medicines come in different forms and strengths. Read the label carefully. This can help to prevent a wrong dose of medicine.
- Use the syringe or medicine cup that comes with the medicine. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon or a tablespoon to measure the medicine.
- Aspirin is not advised for children with fever.
- Acetaminophen should only be given to babies older than 3 months unless you have a doctor's order.
- Ibuprofen should only be used for babies older than 6 months unless you have a doctor's order.
- It may take 60 to 90 minutes for these medicines to work. The temperature may not return to normal, but it should get better, which will make your child more comfortable.
- Check with your child's doctor before giving acetaminophen or ibuprofen with other medicines. This includes over-the-counter cough and cold medicines.
- Let the doctor know if your child is taking any vitamins, herbal products, supplements or home remedies.

Dosage guide

The charts below show how much acetaminophen and ibuprofen can be given to children based on their weight. Remember the tips above and consult your child's doctor if you have questions about dosage.

Acetaminophen dosage

Child's weight		Liquid (suspension*)	Meltaways	Junior meltaways
Lbs	Kg	160 mg per 5 mL	80 mg tablet	160 mg tablet
12-17	5.4-7.7	2.5 mL	Do not use	Do not use
18-23	8.1-10.4	3.75 mL	Do not use	Do not use
24-35	10.9-15.9	5 mL	2 tablets	1 tablet
36-47	16.3-21.3	7.5 mL	3 tablets	1½ tablets
48-59	21.8-26.8	10 mL	4 tablets	2 tablets
60-71	27.2-32.3	12.5 mL	5 tablets	2½ tablets
72-95	32.7-43.1	15 mL	6 tablets	3 tablets

Ibuprofen dosage

Child's weight		Infant's drops	Liquid (suspension*)	Chewable tabs	Junior chewable tabs
Lbs	Kg	50 mg per 1.25 mL	100 mg per 5 mL	50 mg	100 mg
18-23	8.1-10.4	1.875 mL	Do not use	Do not use	Do not use
24-35	10.9-15.9	2.5 mL	5 mL	2 tablets	Do not use
36-47	16.3-21.3	Do not use	7.5 mL	3 tablets	1½ tablets
48-59	21.8-26.8	Do not use	10 mL	4 tablets	2 tablets
60-71	27.2-32.3	Do not use	12.5 mL	5 tablets	2½ tablets
72-95	32.7-43.1	Do not use	15 mL	6 tablets	3 tablets

*You may see the word suspension on your child's medicine bottle. Suspension means the medicine is loose in the liquid. This type of medicine needs to be shaken well before it is given to your child.

*Lbs = pounds; kg=kilograms; mg=milligrams; mL=milliliters

