Medicines and Doses to Reduce Pain and Fever

Choose the proper medicine, and measure the dose accurately.

1. If your infant has a fever in the first 12 weeks of life, contact your healthcare provider.

2. Do not use acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol) in infants younger than 12 weeks or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil, Motrin) in infants younger than 6 months unless your healthcare provider tells you to.

3. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist which medicine is best for your child and what dosage to use.

4. 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.

5. If you have questions about dosage amounts or any other concerns, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

6. Always use a proper measuring device when giving acetaminophen liquid or ibuprofen liquid (e.g., Advil, Motrin):
   - Use the device enclosed in the package. If that device is lost, consult your healthcare provider or pharmacist for advice.
   - Meal-time spoons are not accurate measures. Do not use a meal-time spoon for giving medication.

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 or ibuprofen than is shown in the table below. Too much of any of these medicines can be 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.

ACETAMINOPHEN (Tylenol or other brand*): How much to give?

Give every 4 to 6 hours, as needed, do not give more than 4 doses in 24 hours (unless directed by your healthcare provider).

Child's weight	Child's age	Infant's liquid 160 mg/5 mL	Children's liquid 160 mg/5 mL	Children's chewables 160 mg/tablet	Children's Dissolvable Packets 160 mg/powder pack	Adult's Tablets 325 mg/tablet	Adult's Tablets 500 mg/tablet
0 to 11 lbs (up to 5 kg)	0 to 3 mos	—	—	—	—	—	—
12 to 17 lbs (6 to 7 kg)	4 to 11 mos	2.5 mL	—	—	—	—	—
18 to 23 lbs (8 to 10 kg)	12 to 23 mos	3.75 mL	—	—	—	—	—
24 to 35 lbs (11 to 15 kg)	2 to 3 yrs	—	5 mL	1 tablet	—	—	—
36 to 47 lbs (16 to 21 kg)	4 to 5 yrs	—	7.5 mL	1½ tablets	—	—	—
48 to 59 lbs (22 to 26 kg)	6 to 8 yrs	—	10 mL	2 tablets	2 packets	1 tablet	—
60 to 71 lbs (27 to 32 kg)	9 to 10 yrs	—	12.5 mL	2½ tablets	2 packets	1 tablet	—
72 to 95 lbs (33 to 43 kg)	11 yrs	—	15 mL	3 tablets	3 packets	1½ tablets	1 tablet
96 lbs (44 kg) or more	12 yrs or older	—	10 mL + 10 mL = 20 mL	4 tablets	—	2 tablets	1 tablet

* This table only includes products widely available in the United States.
Reference: https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/medication-safety/Pages/Acetaminophen-for-fever-and-pain.aspx

IBUPROFEN (Advil, Motrin, or other brand*): How much to give?

Give every 6 to 8 hours, as needed, do not give more than 4 doses in 24 hours (unless directed by your healthcare provider).

Child's weight	Child's age	Infant's drops 50 mg/1.25 mL	Children's liquid 100 mg/5 mL	Children's chewable tablets 50 mg/tablet	Junior strength tablets 100 mg/tablet	Adult strength tablets 200 mg/tablet
0 to 11 lbs (up to 5 kg)	0 to 5 mos	—	—	—	—	—
12 to 17 lbs (6 to 7 kg)	6 to 11 mos	1.25 mL	2.5 mL	—	—	—
18 to 23 lbs (8 to10 kg)	12 to 23 mos	1.875 mL	4 mL	—	—	—
24 to 35 lbs (11–15 kg)	2 to 3 yrs	2.5 mL	5 mL	2 tablets	—	—
36 to 47 lbs (16 to 21 kg)	4 to 5 yrs	3.75 mL	7.5 mL	3 tablets	—	—
48 to 59 lbs (22 to 26 kg)	6 to 8 yrs	5 mL	10 mL	4 tablets	2 tablets	1 tablet
60 to 71 lbs (27 to 32 kg)	9 to 10 yrs	—	12.5 mL	5 tablets	2½ tablets	1 tablet
72 to 95 lbs (33 to 43 kg)	11 yrs	—	15 mL	6 tablets	3 tablets	1½ tablets
96 lbs (44 kg) or more	12 yrs or older	—	10 mL + 10 mL = 20 mL	8 tablets	4 tablets	2 tablets

* This table only includes products widely available in the United States.
Reference: https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/medication-safety/Pages/Ibuprofen-for-fever-and-pain.aspx

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