

Giving Your Child Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen: What You Need To Know

Important Information

Acetaminophen and ibuprofen are over-the-counter medicines that relieve pain and reduce fever. Ibuprofen relieves swelling but acetaminophen does not.

To get an accurate temperature reading for newborns to 1 year olds, use only a rectal thermometer. Follow package directions.

Your health care provider recommends treating a fever in a child younger than 1 year old only if he or she has a fever higher than 102 F by rectum. You should not give any form of fever-reducing or pain medicine to a child younger than 1 year old if you do not know his or her rectal temperature.

It is important to follow your health care provider's instructions, the directions on the package label or both. Ask your health care provider if you are unsure about giving your child medicine to reduce a fever.

Acetaminophen

Brand names of acetaminophen include Liquiprin[®], Tempra[®], Little Fevers[®] and Children's Tylenol[®] Oral Suspension[®].

- Always follow your health care provider's instructions.
- One dose of acetaminophen should last for 4 hours. Do not give another dose during those 4 hours.
- Do not give your child more than five doses of acetaminophen in 24 hours.
- Do not give your child more medicine than the amount recommended by your health care provider or listed on the package label.
- Keep this and all medicines out of reach of children.
- **Do not save droppers from old bottles.** Only give the dosage with the syringe or dosing tool that comes with the medicine.

Acetaminophen Dosage Chart					
Weight (pounds)	6 to 11	12 to 17	18 to 23	24 to 35	36 to 47
Age	newborn to 2 years			2 to 3 years	4 to 5 years
Dose (milligrams)	40 mg	80 mg	120 mg	160 mg	240 mg
Infant suspension (160 mg/5 mL)	1.25 mL (¼ teaspoon)	2.5 mL (½ teaspoon)	3.75 mL (¾ teaspoon)	5 mL (1 teaspoon)	7.5 mL (1 and ½ teaspoon)
Liquid (160 mg/5 mL)	1.25 mL (¼ teaspoon)	2.5 mL (½ teaspoon)	3.75 mL (¾ teaspoon)	5 mL (1 teaspoon)	7.5 mL (1 and ½ teaspoon)
Chewable tablets (80 mg each)	—	—	—	2 tablets	3 tablets
Children's chewable tablets (160 mg each)	—	—	—	1 tablet	1 ½ tablets

For the chart above: Find your child's weight. Follow the column that matches your child's weight to liquid or chewable tablets.

(over)

Ibuprofen Dosage Chart				
Weight (pounds)	12 to 17	18 to 23	24 to 35	36 to 47
Age	6 to 23 months		2 to 3 years	4 to 5 years
Dose (milligrams)	50 mg	75 mg	100 mg	150 mg
Drops (50 mg/1.25 mL)	1.25 mL ($\frac{2}{3}$ dropper)	1.875 mL (1 dropper)	2.5 mL (1 and $\frac{1}{3}$ dropper)	3.75 mL (2 droppers)
Liquid or Suspension (100 mg/5 mL)	—	—	5 mL (1 teaspoon)	7.5 mL (1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon)
Chewable tablets (100 mg each)	—	—	1 tablet	1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ tablets

For the chart above: Find your child's weight. Follow the column that matches your child's weight to drops, liquid or chewable tablets.

Ibuprofen

Brand names of ibuprofen include Advil[®], Motrin[®] and Nuprin[®]. Ibuprofen is also known as a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

- Always follow your health care provider's instructions.
- **Do not give ibuprofen to a child younger than 6 months old. It is neither recommended nor approved.**
- One dose of ibuprofen should last 6 to 8 hours. Do not give another dose during those 6 to 8 hours.
- Do not give your child more than four doses of ibuprofen in 24 hours.
- Do not give your child more medicine than the amount recommended by your health care provider or listed on the package label.
- Keep this and all medicines out of reach of children.
- **Do not save droppers from old bottles.** Only give the dosage with the syringe or dosing tool that comes with the medicine.

Important Information About Aspirin

Do not give your child aspirin or medicines that contain salicylate to treat a viral illness, unless your health care provider gives you instructions. These medicines put your child at risk of developing Reye's syndrome, a life-threatening brain and liver disorder.

When To Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if:

- your child is younger than 2 months old and has a temperature of at least 100.4 F by rectum
- your child is 2 to 3 months old and has a temperature of more than 101 F by rectum and has signs of illness
- your child has a temperature higher than 104 F by rectum
- your child's fever does not go down within 24 hours
- you gave your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen but the fever and signs of illness last for 3 days
- your child breaks out in a rash
- your child vomits.