

Pediatric Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) are over-the-counter pain and fever reducers. Fever is the body's normal response to infections and will usually get better on its own. Treating a fever with these medications can make your child more comfortable, but the infection won't go away faster.

Safety tips

If you give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen, be sure to follow these important guidelines.

Acetaminophen

- Don't give to infants under 2 months old unless instructed by your child's doctor.
- Check the concentration of medication you have. Concentrated infant drops (80 mg/0.8 mL) are no longer sold, but if you have some at home they're expired and should be discarded.
- Don't give your child more than 5 doses in 24 hours.

Ibuprofen

- Don't give to infants under 6 months old.
- Don't give your child more than 4 doses in 24 hours.
- Don't give if your child is dehydrated, vomiting, or has kidney or heart problems.

General

- Carefully read and follow all labels on the package.
- Know how much your child weighs. The correct dose for your child is based on weight (not age).
- Use only the syringe or cup that came with the medication to measure it, not a kitchen spoon. Measure in a well-lit area.
- Don't exceed the maximum recommended doses.
- Talk to your doctor before switching between acetaminophen and ibuprofen.
- Don't give aspirin to anyone under age 20.
- Don't give naproxen sodium (Aleve) to children younger than 12 unless prescribed.
- Call us right away if your baby is under 2 months old and has a rectal temperature of 100.4°F or higher.

See next page for dosing guide.

Recommended pediatric dosing

Acetaminophen (Tylenol)

Weight Age	Infants' Concentrated Drops (Dropper)*	Infants' Liquid Syrup (Syringe)	Children's Liquid Suspension	Children's Chewable Tablets/Meltaways	Junior Strength Chewable Tablets/Meltaways	Adult Tablets
	80 mg/0.8 mL	160 mg/5 mL	160 mg/5 mL	80 mg	160 mg	325 mg
6–11 lbs. 1–5 months**	Expired: Discard	1.25 mL (40 mg)	1.25 mL (40 mg)			
12–17 lbs. 6–11 months	Expired: Discard	2.5 mL (80 mg)	2.5 mL (80 mg)			
18–23 lbs. 12–23 months	Expired: Discard	3.75 mL (120 mg)	3.75 mL (120 mg)			
24–35 lbs. 2–3 years		5.0 mL (160 mg)	5.0 mL (160 mg)	2 tablets (160 mg)		
36–47 lbs. 4–5 years			7.5 mL (240 mg)	3 tablets (240 mg)		
48–59 lbs. 6–8 years			10 mL (320 mg)	4 tablets (320 mg)	2 tablets (320 mg)	
60–71 lbs. 9–10 years			12.5 mL (400 mg)	5 tablets (400 mg)	2½ tablets (400 mg)	
72–95 lbs. 11 years			15 mL (480 mg)	6 tablets (480 mg)	3 tablets (480 mg)	
95+ lbs. 12 years & up					4 tablets (640 mg)	1–2 tablets (325–650 mg)

*Concentrated infant drops were discontinued in 2011. If you still have some at home they're expired and should be discarded.

**Don't give acetaminophen to infants under 2 months old unless instructed by your child's doctor.

Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)

Weight Age	Infants' Drops (Dropper/Syringe)	Children's Elixir/Liquid	Junior Strength Chewables	Junior Strength Swallow Tablets	Adult Tablets
	50 mg/1.25 mL	100 mg/5 mL	100 mg	100 mg	200 mg
12–17 lbs. 6–11 months	1.25 mL (50 mg)	2.5 mL (50 mg)			
18–23 lbs. 12–23 months	1.875 mL (75 mg)	3.75 mL (75 mg)			
24–35 lbs. 2–3 years	2.5 mL (100 mg)	5.0 mL (100 mg)	1 tablet (100 mg)		
36–47 lbs. 4–5 years		7.5 mL (150 mg)	1½ tablets (150 mg)		
48–59 lbs. 6–8 years		10 mL (200 mg)	2 tablets (200 mg)	2 tablets (200 mg)	
60–71 lbs. 9–10 years		12.5 mL (250 mg)	2½ tablets (250 mg)	2½ tablets (250 mg)	
72–95 lbs. 11 years		15 mL (300 mg)	3 tablets (300 mg)	3 tablets (300 mg)	