

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.

	May Give Every	10-11 pounds	12-17 pounds	18-23 pounds	24-35 pounds	36-47 pounds	48-59 pounds	60-71 pounds	72-95 pounds	96+ pounds
Drops (80mg/0.8ml)	4-6 Hours	1/2 dppr	1 dppr.	1 1/2 dppr.	2 dppr.	2 1/2 dppr.				
Syrup (160mg/5ml)	4-6 Hours		1/2 tsp	3/4 tsp	1 tsp	1 1/2 tsp	2 tsp	2 1/2 tsp	3 tsp	4 tsp
Chewable Tablets (80mg)	4-6 Hours			1 1/2 tab	2 tab	3 tab	4 tab	5 tab	6 tab	8 tab
Chewable Tablets (160mg)	4-6 Hours				1 tab	1 1/2 tab	2 tab	2 1/2 tab	3tab	4 tab
Adult Tablets (325mg)	4-6 Hours							1 tab	1 to 1 1/2 tab	2 tab

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. It is not clear how well the medicine is absorbed from the suppositories.

Ibuprofen

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

	May Give Every	12-17 pounds	18-23 pounds	24-35 pounds	36-47 pounds	48-59 pounds	60-71 pounds	72-95 pounds	96+ pounds
Drops (50mg/1.25ml)	6-8 Hours	1 1/2 dppr	2 dppr.	2 1/2 dppr.					
Syrup (100mg/5ml)	6-8 Hours	3/4 tsp	1 tsp	1 1/2 tsp	2 tsp	2 1/2 tsp	3 tsp	4 tsp	5 tsp
Chewable Tablets (50mg)	6-8 Hours		2 tab	3 tab	4 tab	5 tab	6 tab	8 tab	10 tab
Chewable Tablets (100mg)	6-8 Hours		1 tab	1 1/2 tab	2 tab	2 1/2 tab	3 tab	4 tab	5 tab
Adult Tablets (200mg)	6-8 Hours							2 tab	3 tab

Alternating or Combining Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen

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

- Alternate doses of acetaminophen and ibuprofen every 3 hours.
- Alternate medicines for only 24 hours or less, and then return to a single product.

Combining acetaminophen and ibuprofen is not recommended. Combining can cause confusion, dosage errors, and poisoning. Also, it is usually not important to control a fever that closely.

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 encephalitis-like illness. Most pediatricians have stopped using aspirin for fevers associated with any illness.