

How Much OTC Medicine Should I Give My Baby?



Most over-the-counter (OTC) medicine doesn't tell you exactly how much to give your baby. In fact, the directions will often tell you to ask a Doctor. You can always give us a call when your baby is sick.

However, we also wanted to provide some useful information on dosing for

Acetaminophen (brand names Tylenol, Little Fevers, etc.) and Ibuprofen (brand names Motrin, Advil etc.), as well as a dosing table for Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) though we do not recommend Benadryl for children under 1.

Picking the Right Concentration

Finding the right bottle of medication can be a little tricky. Bottles are sorted into "Infant" and "Child" liquids. The infant forms usually have a dropper, and the child forms a cup. To use a dosing chart (see links and charts below), you first need to know the concentration of the bottle. The concentration information is usually listed on the front of the box.



What About the Tylenol/Acetaminophen Recalls & Changes?

Before 2011, there were different concentrations for infant acetaminophen and children's acetaminophen resulting in some cases of accidental overdoses; children were given the correct amount, but in the wrong concentration. To help prevent these problems, both brand-name and generic-label acetaminophen companies phased out the high-concentration infant bottles (**80mg/0.8mL**).

The high concentration infant acetaminophen is still safe as long as it's not expired, and as long as you follow the instructions on the dosing table. The "new," concentration of acetaminophen for both infants and children is **160mg/5mL**.

What Should I Use to Give the Dose?

The best thing to do is **use the dropper or cup included with the medication**. Just make sure you give the correct amount according to the dosing table.

A Few More Important Points

1. **If your child is less than 2 months old and has a rectal temperature higher than 100.4, call the office before going any further.**
2. **Be sure to keep track of the times you give each dose.** Acetaminophen can be given up to every 4-6 hours and ibuprofen every 6-8 hours. Be careful — children can overdose if the doses are given too close together.
3. **Do not use Ibuprofen for children under 6 months of age.** Young babies aren't able to clear the drug from their systems as well as older infants and children.
4. Acetaminophen rectal suppositories are available for children who are unable to take oral medications due to vomiting. However, **if your child is sick to the point that he/she can't keep anything down and also has a fever, please call the office.**
5. **Do not use Diphenhydramine for children under 1 year of age.** As with ibuprofen, young babies aren't able to clear the drug from their systems as well as older infants and children.

DOSAGE TABLES BY WEIGHT

ACETAMINOPHEN (Tylenol)

Weight/Age	Tylenol Milligram Dosage	Old Tylenol Infant Drops 80mg/0.8ml	Tylenol Infant/Children's Liquid 160 mg/5ml	Tylenol Chewables 80mg each	Tylenol Junior 160mg each
6-11 lbs./ 0-3 mos.	40 mg	½ dropper (0.4 ml)	¼ tsp (1.25 ml)	N/A	N/A
12-17 lbs./ 4-11 mos.	80 mg	1 dropper (0.8 ml)	½ tsp (2.5 ml)	N/A	N/A
18-23 lbs./ 12-23 mos.	120 mg	1 ½ dropper (1.2 ml)	¾ tsp (3.75 ml)	N/A	N/A
24-35 lbs./ 2-3 years	160 mg	2 droppers (1.6 ml)	1 tsp (5 ml)	2 tablets	1 tablet
36-47 lbs./ 4-5 years	240 mg	3 droppers (2.4 ml)	1 ½ tsp (7.5 ml)	3 tables	1 ½ tablet

IBUPROFEN (Motrin)

Weight/Age	Motrin Milligram Dosage	Motrin Infant Drops 50mg/1.25 ml	Motrin Children's Liquid 100 mg/5 ml	Motrin Chewables 50mg each	Motrin Junior 100mg each
12-17 lbs./ 6-11 mos.	50 mg	1 dropper (1.25 ml)	½ tsp (2.5 ml)	N/A	N/A
18-23 lbs./ 12-23 mos.	75 mg	1 ½ dropper (1.875 ml)	¾ tsp (3.75 ml)	N/A	N/A
24-35 lbs./ 2-3 years	100 mg	2 droppers (2.5 ml)	1 tsp (5 ml)	2 tablets	1 tablet
36-47 lbs./ 4-5 years	150 mg	3 droppers (3.75 ml)	1 ½ tsp (7.5 ml)	3 tablets	1 ½ tablet
48-59 lbs./ 6-8 years	200 mg	N/A	2 tsp (10 ml)	4 tablets	2 tablets
60-71 lbs./ 9-10 years	250 mg	N/A	2 1/2 tsp (12.5 ml)	5 tablets	2 ½ tablets
72-95 lbs./ 11 years	300 mg	N/A	3 tsp (15 ml)	6 tablets	3 tablets

DIPHENHYDRAMINE (Benadryl)

Weight (lbs.)	0-19	20-24	25-37	38-49	50-99	100+	TYPE
Liquid (12.5 mg /1 tsp)	-	3/4	1	1.5	2	-	tsp
Liquid (12.5 mg /5 ml)	-	4	5	7.5	10	-	ml
Chewable (12.5 mg)	-	-	1	1.5	2	4	tablets
Tablets 25 mg	-	-	1/2	1/2	1	2	tablets
Capsules 25 mg	-	-	-	-	1	2	capsules

IMPORTANT POINTS:

1. Syringes and droppers are more accurate than teaspoons. When possible, use the syringe or dropper that came with the medicine.

2. Be sure to keep track of the times you give each dose. Benadryl can be given up to every 6 hours. Be careful -- children can be overdosed if the doses are given too close together.

3. Do not use Benadryl for children under 1 year of age. Young babies aren't able to clear the drug from their systems as well as older infants and children.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, just give us a call in the office anytime.