

POISON PREVENTION

One potentially fatal mistake parents can make is misdosing and mixing of medications for infants and children. Follow the below guidelines and your pediatricians advice for the safety of your child when dispensing medication

ACETAMINOPHEN GUIDELINES

- If possible, use the child's weight to dose; otherwise, use age.
- An acetaminophen product has been developed for every age. Make sure to read the label to see what "stage" is right for your child.

Stage 1: Infants' Drops:

This is a concentrated form of acetaminophen which means there is less liquid for your infant to swallow. Each drop contains more acetaminophen than Children's Liquid Acetaminophen so **ONLY use the enclosed [dropper](#). NEVER use other [cups](#) or [spoons](#).**

Stage 2: Children's Liquids:

This form of acetaminophen should be used for children **ages 2 to 11**. Enclosed with the medicine is a [measuring cup](#) that should only be used with the Children's Liquids. Do not use a [dropper](#) or any other type of spoon.

Stage 3: Children's Soft Chews:

This form of acetaminophen should be used for children **ages 2 and up**.

Stage 4: Junior Strength:

This contains more acetaminophen for your growing child and should only be used for children **ages 6 and up**.

- Giving a child more medicine than the recommended dose will not help and could lead to worse illness or death.
- Giving the child a stronger form of acetaminophen can cause severe illness and could also result in death.
- Always read the label to ensure you are giving your child the medicine he or she needs. NEVER give **[adult strength acetaminophen](#)** to a child under the age of 12. This can cause an overdose.
- After administering the medicine, always write down the time and amount given to avoid an accidental overdose. Share this information with anyone else caring for the child to prevent another dose given at the same time.
- Many of these products come in flavors that are appealing to children. It is important for the caregiver not to refer to the medicine as "candy". Medicine is not candy!
- Always keep medicines locked up after using them!
- **Unless approved by a physician, do not mix acetaminophen and ibuprofen as they have different dosing guidelines.**
- Do not take a mixture of over the counter drugs without pediatrician approval as they may contain some of the same substances and cause an overdose.
- **If you suspect an overdose, call Poison Control 1-800-222-1222**

ACETAMINOPHEN DOSING CHART FOR CHILDREN

*Only use one of the following medicines

Weight (lbs)	Age (months/years)	Infants' Concentrated Drops	Children's Suspension Liquid & Elixir	Children's Soft Chews Chewable Tablets	Junior Strength Chewable Tablets/Caplets
		80mg/ 0.8ml	160mg/ 5ml	80mg each	160mg each
Weight	Age	Dropperful	teaspoon (TSP)	tablets	tablets/caplets
6-11 lbs	0-3 mos	1/2 dropperful (=0.4ml)			
12-17 lbs	4-11 mos	1 dropperful (=0.8ml)	1/2 (TSP)		
18-23 lbs	12-23 mos	1-1/2 dropperful (=0.8 + 0.4ml)	3/4 (TSP)		
24-35 lbs	2-3 yrs	2 dropperfuls (=0.8ml + 0.8ml)	1 (TSP)	2 tablets	
36-47 lbs	4-5 yrs		1-1/2 (TSP)	3 tablets	
48-59 lbs	6-8 yrs		2 (TSP)	4 tablets	2 tablets/caplets
60-71 lbs	9-10 yrs		2 1/2 (TSP)	5 tablets	2 1/2 tablets/caplets
72-95 lbs	11 yrs		3 (TSP)	6 tablets	3 tablets/caplets
96 lbs & over	12 yrs				4 tablets/caplets

** Cough and Cold Medication is no longer recommended for children under the age of two. Please consult your pediatrician for more information and guidance.

For more information visit www.ncpoisoncenter.org