Acetaminophen for children

DETERMINING DOSAGES

The proper dosage of acetaminophen (the active ingredient in Tylenol®) is based on the weight of your child, not age. To weigh a child too young to stand on a scale, weigh yourself while holding the child, then weigh yourself alone. Subtract your weight from the combined weight to get his current weight. For example, together you weigh 140. Your weight is 130. Your child weighs 10 lbs. [140 – 130 = 10]

Child's weight: 6 to 11 lbs. Dose: 40 mg. Infant drops: ½ dropper (0.4 ml.)	**Child's weight: 12 to 17 lbs.** Dose: 80 mg. Infant drops: 1 dropper (0.8 ml.) Children's liquid: ½ tsp.	**Child's weight: 18 to 23 lbs.** Dose: 120 mg. Infant drops: 1½ droppers (1.2 ml.) Children's liquid: 3/4 tsp. Children's chews or meltaways: 1½
Child's weight: 24 to 35 lbs. Dose: 160 mg. Infant drops: 2 droppers (1.6 ml.) Children's liquid: 1 tsp. Children's chews or meltaways: 2 Junior-strength chews or meltaways: 1	**Child's weight: 36 to 47 lbs.** Dose: 240 mg. Infant drops: 3 droppers (2.4 ml.) Children's liquid: 1½ tsp. Children's chews or meltaways: 3 Junior-strength chews or meltaways: 1½	**Child's weight: 48 to 59 lbs.** Dose: 320 mg. Children's liquid: 2 tsp. Children's chews or meltaways: 4 Junior-strength chews or meltaways: 2
Child's weight: 60 to 71 lbs. Dose: 400 mg. Children's liquid: 2 ½ tsp. Children's chews or meltaways: 5 Junior-strength chews or meltaways: 2½ Adult regular-strength tabs (325 mg.): 1	**Child's weight: 72 to 95 lbs.** Dose: 480 mg. Children's liquid: 3 tsp. Children's chews or meltaways: 6 Junior-strength chews or meltaways: 3 Adult regular-strength tabs: 1 to 1½	**Child's weight: 96+ lbs.** Dose: 640 mg. Children's liquid: 4 tsp. Children's chews or meltaways: 8 Junior-strength chews or meltaways: 4 Adult regular-strength tabs: 2

AMOUNTS OF ACETAMINOPHEN IN DIFFERENT FORMS

- Infant drops: 80 mg./0.8 ml. per dropper (shake well before using)
- Children's liquid: 160 mg./5 ml. per teaspoon (shake well before using)
- Children's chews or meltaways: 80 mg. each
- Junior-strength chews or meltaways: 160 mg. each
- Adult regular-strength tablets: 325 mg. each

5 SAFETY TIPS FOR ACETAMINOPHEN

1. Do not give it to a baby under 3 months without a doctor's approval.
2. Always use the measuring device that comes with the medicine – not a spoon from the kitchen.
3. Never give acetaminophen to a child who is taking other medicines unless directed by a doctor. The other medicine may also contain acetaminophen, creating a dangerous overdose. If you have any doubts, call your doctor.
4. Don't confuse infant drops with children's liquid. Infant drops are much more concentrated. Hint: Drops come with a dropper; children's liquid does not.
5. Do not exceed five doses in 24 hours.