

# Fever Management and Medication Dosing

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## What is a fever?

- A fever is when your child's temperature is higher than the normal body temperature and is measured to be 100.4 F or higher
- Fever is often the body's response to a bacterial or viral infection
- The fever is generally harmless, but your child may not feel well because of the infection that is causing the fever

## What temperature is considered a fever?

- Rectal or oral temperature over 100.4 °F (38.0 °C)
  - A rectal temperature is taken with the thermometer tip inserted into your child's bottom with a small amount of lubricating jelly
  - An oral temperature is taken with the thermometer tip under your child's tongue with mouth closed

## How should I treat my child's fever?

- If your child is less than 2 months old see a doctor urgently
- If your child is older than 2 months you may treat the fever with Acetaminophen (see below for dosing). You only need to treat if your child appears uncomfortable (has difficulty sleeping, is crying and/or not eating). The goal is to make your child comfortable, not to bring down the temperature
- If your child is older than 6 months you may give Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen (See below for dosing). Give medication only if your child appears uncomfortable
- Other things you can do to make your child more comfortable are:
  - Offer extra fluids (water, juice) in small but frequent amounts

- Give Lukewarm sponge baths
- Put cool washcloths on forehead/back of neck
- Do not use aspirin for children under 18 years of age

### **When should I call my doctor if my child has a fever?**

Call your doctor if any of the following are true:

- Your child is 2 months old or younger
- Your child has had a fever for greater than three days
- Your child develops other symptoms including:
  - increased work of breathing
  - cough
  - vomiting
  - diarrhea
  - difficult or painful urination
  - not responding normally to you
  - unwilling to eat or drink

### **When should I take my child to the emergency department for a fever?**

Take your child to the nearest emergency room if any of the following are true:

- Your child is 2 months or younger and has a fever
- If your child has a seizure when they have a fever
- Your child looks or acts very sick with their fever and has other symptoms such as:
  - difficult to wake up
  - stiff neck
  - trouble breathing
  - unable to drink fluids
  - crying without tears
  - dry diaper for at least 8 hours
  - dry mouth with cracked lips

## Medicine for your Child's Fever – how much to give

**Acetaminophen** (Tylenol®) is available over the counter and is dosed by weight. Find the correct dose by finding your child's weight below. You may repeat the dosage every 4 to 6 hours as needed. A syringe/dropper should be used to measure liquid medication. Please do not use a spoon.

Abbreviations: mg = milligrams ml = milliliter tsp = teaspoon

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Dosage Form</b>	<b>Dose</b>
7-13 pounds	liquid (160mg/5ml)	1/4 tsp or 1.25 ml
14-20 pounds	liquid (160mg/5ml)	1/2 tsp or 2.5 ml
21-27 pounds	liquid (160mg/5ml)	3/4 tsp or 3.75 ml
	chewable tablets (80mg)	1+1/2 tablets or 120 mg
28 -41 pounds	liquid (160mg/5ml)	1 tsp or 5 ml
	chewable tablets (80mg)	2 tablets or 160 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (160mg)	1 tablet or 160 mg
42-55 pounds	liquid (160mg/5ml)	1+1/2 tsp or 7.5 ml
	Chewable tablet (80mg)	3 tablets or 240 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (160mg)	1+1/2 tablet or 240 mg
56-83 pounds	chewable tablet (80mg)	4 tablets or 320 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (160mg)	2 tablets or 320 mg
	adult tablets (325 mg)	1 tablet or 325 mg
84-111 pounds	chewable tablet (80mg)	6 tablets or 480 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (160mg)	3 tablets or 480 mg
	adult tablets (325 mg)	1+1/2tablets or 480 mg
112+ pounds	chewable tablet (80mg)	8 tablets or 640 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (160mg)	4 tablets or 640 mg
	adult tablets (325 mg)	2 tablets or 650 mg

**Important:** In May 2011, liquid Acetaminophen was changed to one standard concentration of 160mg/5ml. **Please check the concentration of your medication** prior to giving and make sure it is 160mg/5ml

**Ibuprofen (Motrin®)** is available over the counter and is dosed by weight. Find the correct dosage by finding your child's weight below. You may repeat the dosage every 6 to 8 hours as needed. A syringe/dropper should be used to measure liquid medication. Please do not use a spoon. **Do not give ibuprofen to children under 6 months of age.**

Abbreviations: mg = milligrams ml = milliliter tsp = teaspoon

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Dosage Form</b>	<b>Dose</b>
12-17 pounds	drops (50mg/1.25ml)	1.25 ml or 50 mg
	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	1/2 tsp or 2.5 ml
18-23 pounds	drops (50mg/1.25ml)	1.875 ml or 75 mg
	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	3/4 tsp or 3.75 ml
24-35 pounds	drops (50mg/1.25ml)	2.5 ml or 100 mg
	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	1 tsp or 5 ml
	chewable tablets (50mg)	2 tablets or 150 mg
36 -47 pounds	drops (50mg/1.25ml)	3.75 ml or 150 mg
	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	1+1/2 tsp or 7.5 ml
	chewable tablets (50mg)	3 tablets or 150 mg
48-59 pounds	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	2 tsp or 10 ml
	Chewable tablet (50mg)	4 tablets or 200 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (100mg)	2 tablets or 200 mg

60-71 pounds	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	2+1/2 tsp or 12.5 mg
	chewable tablets (50mg)	5 tablets or 250 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (100mg)	2+1/2 tablets or 250 mg
	adult tablets (200mg)	1 tablet or 200 mg
72-95 pounds	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	3 tsp or 15 mg
	chewable tablets (50mg)	6 tablets or 300 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (100mg)	3 tablets or 300 mg
	adult tablets (200mg)	1+1/2 tablet or 300 mg
96+ pounds	children's liquid (100mg/5ml)	4 tsp or 20 mg
	chewable tablets (50mg)	8 tablets or 400 mg
	Jr. strength tablets (100mg)	4 tablets or 400 mg
	adult tablets (200mg)	2 tablet or 400 mg

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