



# OTC DOSING GUIDE

## Acetaminophen

Our Dosing Guide gives dosages for common over-the-counter medications used in children. These medications are dosed according to weight. To calculate your child's dose, look up his or her weight in the Dosing Guide and read across to the proper dose for each medicine listed. If you do not know your child's weight and if your child is too young to stand on bathroom scales, a simple way to determine his or her weight is to first weigh both you and your child as you hold him. Then weigh yourself alone. Subtracting these two numbers will give you a fairly accurate weight for your child. The doses listed in the Dosing Chart are standard doses which are safe for your child. In some situations we recommend doses of these medications which may be slightly higher or lower than the doses recommended on the packaging of the medication. This should not concern you. If our advice calls for doses which are dramatically different, please ask us the reason for this.

### **Abbreviations:**

mg=milligram

tsp=teaspoon

ml=milliliter

cc=cubic centimeter

dppr=dropperful

1 cc=1 ml

1 tsp=5 cc

**If your child takes an overdose of any medication, call Poison Control right away.  
The phone number is 1-800-376-4766 or 686-6161.**

# ACETAMINOPHEN

(Most Common Brand Name: Tylenol)

**Never treat fever in an infant less than three months of age unless advised by a physician.**

**Dosage:** Every four (4) hours. Please be aware that there are two liquid dosage strengths of acetaminophen. The concentrated Infants' drops have 80 mg per 0.8 ml (dropperful) and the Children's syrup or suspension has 160 mg per 5 ml (teaspoon). Make sure you know which strength you are using so that you can look up the dose properly.

**When to use:** Acetaminophen should be used to reduce fever and relieve pain. Acetaminophen has no anti-inflammatory actions. Prior to using acetaminophen for fever, you should consult the fever section of this handbook on page 14.

**Side effects:** Acetaminophen taken at proper doses is very safe. Only if an overdose of the medication occurs is there a likelihood of any side effect. Beware - large overdoses of acetaminophen can be deadly. This medicine should be kept out of reach of your children.

**Note:** If a child has a particularly high fever sometimes we increase the dose of acetaminophen above these dosages. You should only increase your child's dose when directed to do so by a physician because of the risk of overdosing and liver damage.

**NEVER TREAT FEVER IN AN INFANT LESS THAN 3 MONTHS OLD  
without first speaking with the physician or a member of our clinical staff.**

INFANTS' AND CHILDREN'S LIQUID ACETAMINOPHEN (Tylenol)  
\*\*\*Note: For Infants' Drops, use dropper supplied with medication \*\*\*

Weight	Infants' Concentrated Drops 80mg/dropperful (0.8 ml)	Children's Suspension 160mg/teaspoon (5 ml)
6 - 11 lbs	½ dropperful (0.4 ml)	---
12 - 17 lbs	1 dropperful (0.8 ml)	½ teaspoon (2.5 ml)
18 - 23 lbs	1 ½ dropperful (1.2 ml)	¾ tsp (3.75 ml)
24 - 35 lbs	2 dropperful (1.6 ml)	1 tsp (5 ml)
36 - 47 lbs	---	1 ½ tsp (7.5 ml)
48 - 59 lbs	---	2 tsp (10 ml)
60 - 71 lbs	---	2 ½ tsp (12.5 ml)
72+ lbs	---	3 tsp (15 ml)

**INFANTS' AND CHILDREN'S ACETAMINOPHEN SUPPOSITORIES (Brand: FeverAll)**

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Infants' 80 mg/suppository</b>	<b>Children's 120 mg/suppository</b>
12 - 17 lbs	1	2/3
18 - 23 lbs	1 ½	1
24 - 35 lbs	2	1 ½
36 - 47 lbs	---	2
48 - 59 lbs	---	2 ½
60 - 71 lbs	---	3
72+ lbs	---	4

**MELTAWAYS/CHEWABLE ACETAMINOPHEN (Tylenol)**

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Children's 80 mg tablets</b>	<b>Jr. 160 mg tablets</b>
24 - 35 lbs	2	1
36 - 47 lbs	3	1 ½
48 - 59 lbs	4	2
60 - 71 lbs	5	2 ½
72 - 95 lbs	6	3
96+ lbs		4

12 years old – Adult: Take two Regular Strength (325mg) acetaminophen tablets every 4 hours.