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Ontario Centre
Poison antipoison
Centre de l'Ontario

Alternatives for Infant/Children's Liquid Pain Medication

The ongoing shortage of infant and children's pain and fever medications has left many parents seeking alternatives.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) are dosed based on a child's weight in kilograms (kg).

It is safe to give an adult formulation of these medicines to infants and children if it is dosed correctly.

The following charts can serve as a dosing guide. Speak with your pharmacist for tips/tools regarding crushing and preparing these pills for your child.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol)

Give 1 dose every 4-6 hours as needed.

Weight Range (lb)	Weight Range (kg)	Number of regular strength (325mg) Acetaminophen tablets per dose	Maximum # doses per Day
12.1-17.6	5.5- 8	1/4 (one quarter)	5
16.5-23.8	7.5-10.8	1/3 (one third)	5
23.9-35.7	10.9-16.2	1/2 (one half)	5
35.8-53.5	16.3-24.3	3/4 (three quarters)	5
48.4-71.5	22-32.5	1	5

Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)

Give 1 dose every 6-8 hours as needed.

*Note: Ibuprofen should not be given to infants <6 months old (unless directed by physician)

Weight Range (lb)	Weight Range (kg)	Number of regular strength (200mg) Ibuprofen tablets per dose	Maximum # doses per Day
11-22	5-10	1/4 (one quarter)	4
22-44	10-20	1/2 (one half)	4
33-66	15-30	3/4 (three quarters)	4
44-88	20-40	1	4
	Age 12yrs+	1-2 every 4-6 hours as needed	Daily maximum 1200mg