

A Parent's Guide to Giving Acetaminophen Tablets to Children

What you will need:



Tablet/Pill Splitter



Pill Crusher



Acetaminophen tablets
(round tablets preferred
over caplets for splitting)









Soft foods (such as pudding,
applesauce)

Acetaminophen tablets may be *split* according to the dose needed based on the child's weight (see table below), then *crushed* and *mixed* with soft foods. Use mixed doses immediately.

Helpful Tips:

- May give a dose every 4-6 hours as needed. Do not give more than 5 doses of acetaminophen over 24 hours.
- Use an appropriate amount of food that you can guarantee your child can finish so they take the full dose
- A crushed tablet can be bitter tasting. Try masking the taste before or after with a cold treat (ie. popsicle, yogurt, ice cream) or stronger tasting food (ie. raspberry jam, chocolate, peanut butter) if appropriate.

Acetaminophen dosing:

| Child's Weight | Acetaminophen REGULAR Strength Tablet 325mg Tablet | Acetaminophen EXTRA-STRENGTH Tablet 500mg Tablet |
|--|--|--|
| Less than 12 lbs (less than 5.5 kg) | Do not use acetaminophen tablets. Contact a compounding pharmacy that can make acetaminophen liquid (prescription is NOT required) | |
| 12 – 17.9 lbs (5.5 – 8.3 kg) |  Use 1/4 tablet (= 81.25mg) | |
| 18 – 23.9 lbs (8.4 – 10.9 kg) | |  Use 1/4 tablet (=125mg) |
| 24 – 36.9 lbs (11 – 16.9 kg) |  Use 1/2 tablet (=162.5mg) | |
| 37 – 47.9 lbs (17 – 21.9 kg) | |  Use 1/2 tablet (=250mg) |
| 48 – 71.9 lbs (22 – 32.9 kg) |  Use 1 full tablet (=325mg) | |
| 72 lbs and above (33 kg and above) | |  Use 1 full tablet (=500mg) |