

Infant and Children Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) Shortage: Options for Caregivers using Acetaminophen Adult Strength Tablets

With the recent shortage of infant and children’s liquid and chewable tablets of acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), parents **can consider** crushing **acetaminophen** adult tablets and mixing with a small amount of juice or apple sauce. This can be used if the child versions are not available.









*Adult acetaminophen tablets are available over-the-counter as REGULAR 325 mg tablets OR as EXTRA STRENGTH 500mg tablets and can be crushed – ***DO NOT USE ANY EXTENDED RELEASE PRODUCTS****

The table below can be used for acetaminophen dosing.

1. Each dose should be given every 4-6 hours; maximum of 5 doses a day.
2. When using this chart, double check the weight and ensure pounds is not confused with kilograms.
3. Use a pill cutter to ensure better accuracy when splitting tablets. Most pharmacies have these available.

Always speak with a pharmacist about available options that are appropriate and safe for your child

Please note, children 3 months of age or younger with a fever should be assessed by a medical professional.

Kg	Lbs.	Age	Usual Acetaminophen Dose	Suggested acetaminophen oral tablet option	Proportion of Tablet
5.4 to 8.1	12 to 17	4 to 11 mo	80 mg	81.25 mg (1/4 tab of 325 mg tab)	
8.2 to 10.8	18 to 23	1 to 2 y	120 mg	125 mg (1/4 tab of 500 mg tab) OR 81.25 mg (1/4 tab of 325 mg tab) for cautious dosing	 (325mg or 500 mg)
10.9 to 16.3	24 to 35	2 to 3 y	160 mg	162.5 mg (1/2 tab of 325 mg tab)	
16.4 to 21.7	36 to 47	4 to 5 y	240 mg	250 mg (1/2 tab of 500 mg tab) OR 243 mg (3/4 tab of 325 mg tab)	 500mg or  325mg
21.8 to 27.2	48 to 59	6 to 8 y	320 mg to 325 mg	325 mg tab	
27.3 to 32.6	60 to 71	9 to 10 y	325 mg to 400 mg	325 mg tab	
32.7 to 43.2	72 to 95	11 y	480 mg to 500 mg	500 mg tab	

You **do not** need a prescription to purchase liquid acetaminophen and ibuprofen for children. Some pharmacies may be able to use larger bottles to fill requests and are **keeping the supply behind the counter- speak with the Pharmacy team behind the prescription counter.**

A prescription is only recommended so that pharmacists can provide you with the proper dosage and instructions for the medication. Specialty compounding pharmacies are also able to compound liquid acetaminophen.

Please note this is not a substitute for individual medical advice. Please speak to your pharmacist or attending physician if you require assistance.