

CORNERSTONE PEDIATRICS

FEVER INSTRUCTIONS

A fever is usually a sign that the body is fighting an illness or infection. A fever is a temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.

Measure your child's temperature with a digital thermometer. A multi-use thermometer can measure the temperature in a child's bottom (rectal), mouth (oral), or armpit (axillary). Rectal temperature is preferred for infants less than 3 months old. Oral use is not recommended until 4 years old. A temporal artery (forehead) thermometer can be used at any age. Tympanic (ear) thermometers can be used starting at 6 months old. These thermometers are not reliable in infants due to their narrow ear canals. Pacifier thermometers and fever strips are not accurate.

Call your pediatrician if your child has a fever and:

- Your child is younger than 3 months old
- Fever rises above 104°F (40°C) repeatedly
- Fever persists for more than 3 days (72 hours)
- Your child seems to be getting worse

Call your pediatrician or seek immediate care if your child has a fever and:

- Looks very ill, is unusually drowsy, is acting confused, or is very fussy/irritable
- Has been in a hot place, such as an overheated car
- Has other symptoms, such as severe headache or stiff neck
- Has immune system problems, such as sickle cell disease or cancer
- Has had a seizure

Fever Management

Keep your child lightly dressed. Encourage your child to drink enough fluids to stay hydrated.

You may treat with acetaminophen (Brand name: Tylenol®, Feverall®, Tempra®) or ibuprofen (Brand names: Motrin®, Advil®) to reduce fever and relieve discomfort.

Do NOT give aspirin. Aspirin has been associated with the development of Reyes syndrome.

See back of page for dosing instructions.

DOSAGE CHARTS

Acetaminophen (Brand names: Tylenol®, Feverall®, Tempra®) – 3 MONTHS AND OLDER

Your child's weight (pounds)	Syrup (160 mg/5 mL)	Chewable tablet (160 mg)	Adult tablet (325 mg)	Adult tablet (500 mg)
6-11 lbs	1.25 mL			
12-17 lbs	2.5 mL			
18-23 lbs	3.75 mL			
24-35 lbs	5 mL	1 tablet		
36-47 lbs	7.5 mL	1 ½ tablets		
48-59 lbs	10 mL	2 tablets	1 tablet	
60-71 lbs	12.5 mL	2 ½ tablets	1 tablet	
72-95 lbs	15 mL	3 tablets	1 ½ tablets	1 tablet
96+ lbs	20 mL	4 tablets	2 tablets	1 tablet

Do not use acetaminophen if your child is less than 3 months old unless directed by your pediatrician. Repeat every 4-6 hours as needed. Do not give more than 5 times in 24 hours.

Ibuprofen (Brand names: Motrin®, Advil®) – 6 MONTHS AND OLDER

Your child's weight (pounds)	Infant drops (50 mg/1.25 mL)	Liquid (100 mg/5 mL)	Chewable tablet (100 mg)	Adult tablet (200 mg)
12-17 lbs	1.25 mL	2.5 mL		
18-23 lbs	1.875 mL	4 mL		
24-35 lbs	2.5 mL	5 mL		
36-47 lbs	3.75 mL	7.5 mL		
48-59 lbs	5 mL	10 mL	2 tablets	1 tablet
60-71 lbs		12.5 mL	2 ½ tablets	1 tablet
72-95 lbs		15 mL	3 tablets	1 ½ tablets
96+ lbs		20 mL	4 tablets	2 tablets

Repeat every 6-8 hours as needed. Do not give more than 4 times in 24 hours.

For accurate dosing, measure the medication with a medicine syringe.

Remember, it may take at least 30-60 minutes for medication to start working.

Avoid multi-ingredient products in children less than 6 years old.