

Pediatric Acetaminophen & Ibuprofen Dosing (Using Adult Formulations)

Please note that medications for pediatric patients (<12 years of age) are dosed based on **weight** and **NOT** age.

Age is listed in the reference tables as a guide; however, determination of appropriate doses should always be determined based upon the child's **current weight**. These pediatric medications should ideally be administered in exact pediatric formulations such as suppositories, pediatric tablets, or liquid suspensions (compounded or commercially available); however, using adult tablet formulations to provide appropriate doses to children is an option in **urgent** situations such as when all other formulations are inaccessible.

These medications should be **administered immediately** after cutting, splitting, or crushing given the limited data on product stability once the medication is no longer in a single tablet form. Also, these medications may have a strong bitter taste; thus, administering them in/with apple sauce, chocolate syrup, or juice can help masking the unpleasant taste.

When obtaining adult oral formulations which are to be cut, split, or crushed and subsequently administered to children, ensure that **immediate release tablets** are used. Do **NOT** use capsules, soft-gels or extended-release formulations (e.g., *Tylenol Arthritis, Advil 12 Hours*) as these formulations should not be manipulated. Contact the pharmacy team to clarify which formulations can and which can not be manipulated.

Also, note that the approximate dosage after cutting and splitting tablets may be slightly higher or lower than the usual dosage. As a best practice, when cutting or splitting tablets, an appropriate **pill splitting device** should always be used.

Table 1: Acetaminophen (Tylenol) Pediatric Dosing

Age	Weight		Dosage (mg)	Suggested Administration: Regular Strength Adult Acetaminophen Tablet (325mg)	Suggested Administration: Extra Strength Adult Acetaminophen Tablet (500mg)	Approximate dose patient will receive as per suggested administration (mg)
	Kg	lbs				
0-3 months	2.7-5.3	6-11	40	<i>Appropriately cutting or splitting tablets may not be feasible. Hence, use of adult tablets is not recommended. Consider using alternative formulations such as compounded liquid suspensions.</i>		
6-11 months	5.4-8.1	12-17	80			
12-23 months	8.2-10.8	18-23	120	Use extra strength 500mg tablet	Give 1/4 tablet	125
2-3 years	10.9-16.3	24-35	160	Give 1/2 tablet	Use regular strength 325mg tablet	162.5
4-5 years	16.4-21.7	36-47	240	Use extra strength 500mg tablet	Give 1/2 tablet	250
6-8 years	21.8-27.2	48-59	320-325	Give 1 tablet	Use regular strength 325mg tablet	325 <i>(exact dose)</i>
9-10 years	27.3-32.6	60-71	325-400	Give 1 tablet		325 <i>(exact dose)</i>
11 years	32.7-43.2	72-95	480-500	Use extra strength 500mg tablet	Give 1 tablet	500mg <i>(exact dose)</i>

Table 2: Ibuprofen (Advil/Motrin) Pediatric Dosing

Age	Weight		Dosage (mg)	Suggested Administration: Regular Strength Adult Ibuprofen Tablet (200mg)	Suggested Administration: Extra Strength Adult Ibuprofen Tablet (400mg)	Approximate dose patient will receive as per suggested administration (mg)
	Kg	lbs				
6-11 months	5.4-8.1	12-17	50	<i>Appropriately cutting or splitting tablets may not be feasible. Hence, use of adult tablets is not recommended. Consider using alternative formulations such as compounded liquid suspensions.</i>		
12-23 months	8.2-10.8	18-23	75-80			
2-3 years	10.9-16.3	24-35	100	Give 1/2 tablet	Use regular strength 200mg tablet	100
4-5 years	16.4-21.7	36-47	150	Give 1/2 tablet		100
6-8 years	21.8-27.2	48-59	200	Give 1 tablet		200 <i>(exact dose)</i>
9-10 years	27.3-32.6	60-71	200-250	Give 1 tablet		200 <i>(exact dose)</i>
11 years	32.7-43.2	72-95	300	Give 1.5 tablets		300

Note: Ibuprofen is available as enteric coated tablets. The purpose of the coating is to reduce gastrointestinal upset symptoms (nausea, diarrhea). It is not routinely recommended to cut, split, or crush ibuprofen tablets; however, if necessary, this would still be an option. Administering ibuprofen with food helps to limit gastrointestinal symptoms.