

What you need
to know about...

Giving Your Child Pain Relievers/Fever Reducers

Pain relievers can help reduce your child's fever and relieve minor aches and pains. There are two kinds approved for children—acetaminophen (found in Children's **TYLENOL**®) and ibuprofen (found in Children's **MOTRIN**®). Aspirin should not be given to children, since it can cause a serious illness, called Reye's Syndrome.

Over-the-counter pain relievers are widely used medicines in America. But like all medicines, they can be harmful if you don't use them properly. The following steps can help you use children's pain relievers safely every time.



Know the proper dose

Children grow quickly, so it's important to read the label every time to find the right dose for your child's current weight (or age, if weight is unknown). For young children, the label may tell you to ask your doctor for the correct dose. When there is more than one child in the home, it can be easy to get dosage amounts for children of different ages confused.

Measure accurately

For accuracy, use only the dosing device that came packaged with the product. Generally, infants' products come with syringes for measuring, and children's products generally come with dosing cups.

Don't give another dose too soon

Read the label to make sure you know how *often* to give the medicine. If you give another dose too soon, you can harm your child.

More important facts about children's pain relief

- **Don't give adult medicine to children, even in smaller amounts**
- **Always read and follow the label**
- **Don't take more than one medication that contains the same active ingredient.** If you are going to give your child more than one medicine on any given day, check the "Active Ingredients" on all labels. Many over-the-counter and prescription medicines—including multiple-symptom cough and cold medicines—contain acetaminophen (the active ingredient in **TYLENOL**®) as well as other ingredients like antihistamines and cough suppressants.

Note: some labels will use the abbreviation "APAP" for acetaminophen.