

## 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 <b>REGULAR Strength</b> Tablet <b>325mg Tablet</b>	Acetaminophen <b>EXTRA-STRENGTH</b> Tablet <b>500mg Tablet</b>
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)	 <b>Use 1/4 tablet (= 81.25mg)</b>	
18 – 23.9 lbs (8.4 – 10.9 kg)		 <b>Use 1/4 tablet (=125mg)</b>
24 – 36.9 lbs (11 – 16.9 kg)	 <b>Use 1/2 tablet (=162.5mg)</b>	
37 – 47.9 lbs (17 – 21.9 kg)		 <b>Use 1/2 tablet (=250mg)</b>
48 – 71.9 lbs (22 – 32.9 kg)	 <b>Use 1 full tablet (=325mg)</b>	
72 lbs and above (33 kg and above)		 <b>Use 1 full tablet (=500mg)</b>