

# How to use 325 mg acetaminophen tablets to create children's doses for ages 2-11

This resource is intended to be used by health-care professionals with parents and caregivers to assist with the administration of acetaminophen during the shortage of children's products. Parents and caregivers should always consult a trusted health-care professional to determine the care that is appropriate for their child.



**CAUTION:** This resource is not to be used for children under 2 years of age. Doses for this age group are too small to be easily cut from adult tablets. Speak to a health-care provider.

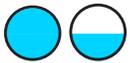
The following dose recommendations are for use with **round, uncoated 325 mg acetaminophen tablets only**. They do not apply to caplet shaped tablets, as they can be hard to split into accurate parts.

Dosing by weight is best. This method uses full and half tablets. You should not try and cut into smaller pieces as doing so can be difficult and lead to mistakes.

**CAUTION:** You should contact your health-care provider if you have any questions before administering, since it is easy to give too much medicine.



**Do not exceed maximum dose in 24 hours.**

✓	Weight		Single Oral Dose* <i>can be given every 4-6 hours</i>	Maximum Dose in 24 Hours
	pounds	kg	Number of 325 mg tablets	Number of 325 mg tablets
	24-44	11-20	½ of a tablet 	Do not give more than 2 and ½ tablets in 24 hours
	Over 44-66	Over 20-30	1 tablet 	Do not give more than 5 tablets in 24 hours
	Over 66-88	Over 30-40	1 and ½ tablets 	Do not give more than 7 tablets in 24 hours
	Over 88	Over 40	Follow adult dosing	Follow adult dosing

\*Dose based on 10-15 mg/kg of acetaminophen and rounded to nearest ½ tablet dose.

## Tips:



- A tablet splitter  can be helpful when cutting tablets and can prevent cuts and injuries.
- Some children are able to swallow a tablet. Many children 6 years of age or older will be able to try swallowing a tablet. Some younger children may be able to as well. All children should be supervised while trying to swallow a tablet since there is a risk of choking. See these tips from Hamilton Health Sciences: [www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SwallowPillsHelpChild-lw.pdf](http://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SwallowPillsHelpChild-lw.pdf).
- For children who cannot swallow a tablet, the parent or caregiver can crush the correct amount of tablet between 2 spoons or in a mortar and pestle, often called a spice grinder in kitchen stores. The crushed powder can be mixed into a tablespoon of soft, cold food like applesauce, yogurt or jam. Chocolate syrup can cover up the bitter taste well.

