

A Parent’s Guide to Ibuprofen and Naproxen for Children

Ibuprofen (commonly known as Advil or Motrin) and naproxen (commonly known as Aleve) are over-the-counter medications for treatment of fever, headache, toothache, muscle pain and inflammation (swelling). Always double check the concentration and dose for the product before giving it to your child. Different products can have varying concentrations or tablet strengths. Always read the label for dosing information or consult your child’s pediatrician for help administering medication. Remember that not all kitchen spoons are the same size— it is best to use the measuring device that comes with the medication, or obtain a medication syringe from your local drug store.

Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) dosing guidelines for children*

		Child’s weight (lbs.)							
		12-17 lbs.	18-23 lbs.	24-35 lbs.	36-47 lbs.	48-59 lbs.	60-71 lbs.	72-95 lbs.	96+ lbs.
Dosage Forms	Infant drops** 50mg/1.25mL	1.25 mL	1.875 mL						
	Liquid 100mg/5mL	2.5mL	3.75mL	5mL	7.5mL	10mL	12.5mL	15mL	20mL
	Chewable tablet 50 mg			2 tabs	3 tabs	4 tabs	5 tabs	6 tabs	8 tabs
	Junior tablet 100 mg			1 tab	1.5 tabs	2 tabs	2.5 tabs	3 tabs	4 tabs
	Adult tablet 200 mg					1 tab	1 tab	1.5 tabs	2 tabs

*May repeat dose every six to eight hours as needed. Do not exceed four doses in 24 hours.

**For children less than six months old, consult your doctor.

Naproxen (Aleve) dosing guidelines for children*

Age	Dose
Under 12 years old	Ask your doctor
12 years+	1 tablet (220 mg)

*May repeat dose every 8 to 12 hours as needed. Do not exceed three doses in 24 hours.