

PARENTS

AVOID MEDICATION MISTAKES

More than half of all U.S. medical errors involve medication.

Mistakes can be deadly.



47%

In one study, parents gave their kids the wrong dose of medication 47 percent of the time.

INCORRECT DOSAGE

The main reason: **confusion over how to measure and give the medicine.**

READ LABELS CAREFULLY.

Make sure medicine is safe for children.



DO NOT measure medication with kitchen spoons. Teaspoons and tablespoons vary in size. It's easy to accidentally give your child too much medicine — or too little. Whether it's over-the-counter or prescription medicine, **NEVER GUESS AT THE DOSE.**



DOSE

The amount of medicine given at **one time.**



DO measure medication with a dosing device.

Most over-the-counter medicines come with an oral dosing device or cup with measurement lines clearly marked. **You can also buy oral syringes at pharmacies.**

WRONG AMOUNT !

Don't give too much and run out sooner than you should.



Know how long to **WAIT** between doses.

Not sure? Ask the pharmacist. Or call your doctor's office.

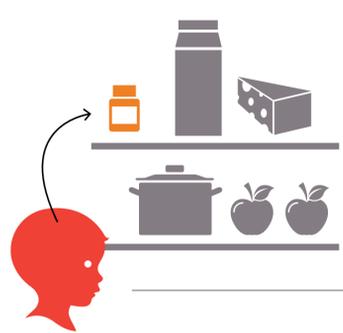
The amount to give is based on **WEIGHT, NOT AGE.**

All kids are not created equal. One 3-year-old may weigh 26 pounds; another may weigh 38. Their doses will be different. Can't remember the dose your pediatrician advised? Ask your pharmacist or call the doctor's office. Younger children's doses are rarely listed on the package.



Right child? Most medication bottles look the same. Don't mix them up and give a medication to the **WRONG CHILD.**

Store it properly & safely. Some medications need to be stored in the refrigerator. Be sure to read and follow the label. Also, keep medications out of reach so children can't accidentally ingest.



Take for full duration. Be sure your child takes ALL of the medication for as long as it is prescribed (not just until he or she feels better!).

Dispose of any leftovers  **RESPONSIBLY.**

If there's still some left after your child has taken all of the correct doses, responsibly get rid of it — don't give extra to your child "just in case" or save it for another illness.

Never be afraid to ask **QUESTIONS.**



Your healthcare providers are here to help you. Call your doctor. Talk to your pharmacist. Call the 800 number on the medicine package. Get the right answers to keep your child healthy, growing and thriving!