

Giving Medication by Mouth



Oral medication comes in many forms, such as tablets, liquids and melts, or it may be rubbed on the gums in the mouth.

In addition to any medication-specific instructions, follow these principles to give medication by mouth:

- When removing medication from a container, avoid touching it with your bare hands. Pour the number of tablets or capsules you need into the container cap and then into a small cup. If you pour too much, return the excess to the bottle without touching it.
- You make the decision on wearing gloves. Whether or not you must wear gloves depends on how the medication is prepared and if you may be exposed to any body fluids while giving it.
- Never crush or split medication or open capsules unless instructed.
- If you need to put the medication in food, use only a small amount of food to be sure the child can finish it all.
- If the child needs to swallow the medication, watch the child take the medication and look in the child's mouth and under the tongue to make sure the child swallowed it.



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