What Are the Five Rights?

1. **Right Child**
   - Make sure that the child you are about to give the medication to is the right child. If you care for siblings or other children in your program with similar names, be extra careful.
   - If you need to give medication to a child you don’t know well, ask someone you trust to tell you the child’s name. You can also ask the child to tell you his/her name. But never rely solely on the child to tell you his/her name.

2. **Right Medication**
   - Only accept medication that is in its original container with the original label. Don’t accept medication that a person has put into another container because you have no way of knowing if it’s the right medication.
   - The strength of the medication is also part of the right medication. The strength is how much of the active ingredient is in one pill or one dose. For example, Ritalin® comes in 5mg and 10mg tablets. So in addition to checking the name (Ritalin®), make sure you have the right strength of the medication (5mg).

3. **Right Dose**
   - The dose is how much of medication to give. For example, the dose could be one tablet, 2 teaspoons or one drop.
   - Measure the dose correctly using the tool (medicine cup, dosing spoon, oral syringe) the parent gave you, if one is needed.
   - If the medication is a liquid, make sure the tool the parent supplied, such as a dosing spoon, oral syringe or medicine cup, has the same measurement on it that is written on the consent form (teaspoons, tablespoons, cc’s, etc.).

4. **Right Route**
   - The route is the way the medication gets into the child’s body, such as into the eye, rubbed on the skin or put into the mouth.
   - Always ask if you don’t you understand how to give the medication correctly by the route written.

5. **Right Time**
   - Medication can be scheduled to be given at a specific hour or have instructions that tell you what to look for when the child needs the medication (“as needed”).
   - When a child arrives, check with the parent to find out if the child got any medication before coming to care.
   - Give medication up to 30 minutes before or up to 30 minutes after the dose is due.