In addition to any medication-specific instructions, follow these principles to put medication in the ear:

- If the outer part of the child’s ear has some crusting or earwax, you should put on gloves and gently remove this with a single-use towel. Do not put anything into the child’s ear canal.
- Many ear drops are kept in the refrigerator, so be sure to warm any cold medicine by rolling the bottle between the palms of your hands.
- When you are ready to give the drop, straighten the child’s ear canal.

  - **For children under 3:**
    Hold earlobe and gently pull down and back.

  - **For children over 3:**
    Hold upper part of ear and gently pull up and back.

- Place the drops so they will roll into the ear along the side of the ear canal. Be careful to not drop directly into the ear. This can be painful and cause the child to experience nausea or dizziness.
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