



SpeakUp™

Taking Medication Safely

Your child's health and safety are important to us. You can make a difference in your child's care by asking questions and being actively involved.

What can you do to make taking medication safe for your child?

- Always bring a list of all medicines (or medicine bottles) your child is taking to every visit.
- Tell your care provider your child's current weight or ask them to weigh your child (in kilograms). Medicines for children are based on weight.
- Ask the following questions:
 - Why does your child need a new medicine? How will it help?
 - What are the names of the medicine?
 - Is there written information about the medicine?
 - What does the medicine look like? Is it a liquid or a pill? What color is the medicine?
 - How do I give my child this medicine? You should be able to repeat the instructions back to the care provider (they may ask you to "Teach Back").
 - What side effects should you look for?
- Tell your care provider about your child's allergies and reactions to any medicines in the past.
- Tell your care provider if you do not understand any information or if you have questions.
- When you get the medicine, check the label for your child's name, the correct medicine name, amount, and directions.
- If your child has trouble swallowing, ask if the medicine comes in a liquid or can be given another way. Always ask your care provider pharmacist if you can cut, crush, or put medicines in food. Some medicines may not work or may be harmful if cut or crushed.

Contact your child's care provider if you have any medicine related questions or concerns.

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