

Accurate Medicine Dosing

Directions Below is a sample dosing table for an over-the-counter (OTC) medicine, similar to the information you can find on a *Drug Facts* label. Use the table and your knowledge about medicine safety to answer the questions below.

Children under 6 years of age	Ask a doctor
Children 6 to under 12 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 mL (½ teaspoonful) two times per day. • Dosage may be repeated every 12 hours while symptoms last. • Do not give more than 5 mL (1 teaspoonful) in 24 hours.
Adults and children 12 years of age and over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mL (1 teaspoonful) two times per day. • Dosage may be repeated every 12 hours while symptoms last. • Do not take more than 10 mL (2 teaspoonfuls) in 24 hours.
Adults 65 years of age and over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mL (1 teaspoonful) two times per day. • Dosage may be repeated every 12 hours while symptoms last. • Do not take more than 10 mL (2 teaspoonfuls) in 24 hours.

Think It Through

1. Olivia is 13 years old. Yesterday, she took her first dose of medicine at 9 a.m. and took a second dose at 9 p.m. She wakes up at 5 a.m. because she is still not feeling better. She talks to her parents and says she should take another dose of medicine since a new day has started. Explain the error in Olivia's reasoning. Use evidence to support your answer.

2. Miguel is 11 years old. He and his parents are reading the directions in the dosing table above. Miguel says that since it is safe to take 2.5 mL twice a day, then he can take 5 mL once a day instead. Explain the error in Miguel's reasoning. Provide facts to support your answer.

3. Khadijah is reading the dosing table with her grandmother in the kitchen. Khadijah's grandmother says that the dosing cup that came with the medicine is in a cabinet upstairs. Khadijah says that they can use a household kitchen spoon to measure 1 teaspoonful of medicine instead. Explain the error in Khadijah's reasoning. Provide facts to support your answer.

Did you know? Nearly 90,000 kids annually, ages 19 and under, need medical help due to medicine mistakes or misuse.

According to the AAPCC National Poison Data System query parameters: 2011–2018 annual average, ages 0–19, all unintentional and intentional misuse reasons for pharmaceutical exposure, cases en route to a health care facility or treatment recommended by specialist in poison information, all outcomes.