

After the Shots . . . What can you do?

Comfort & reassurance

Babies enjoy being held or fed immediately afterward. Older children want to be reassured that they're "all right." Studies have shown that children feel more distressed if their parents are overly sympathetic or apologize repeatedly. Compassion, a matter-of-fact approach, praise for bravery ("You did it!") and a special treat for distraction seem to be most helpful.

Fever

Your child might develop fever, sleep more than usual and be fussy for the first 24-48 hours after her shots at 2, 4, 6, 15 months and at 4 years of age. So long as she is eating and acting normally, there is no reason for concern. If your baby is fussy or has fever, you may give acetaminophen (Tylenol®) every 4 hours for the first 24-48 hours; however, do not give more than 5 doses in 24 hours. As an alternative, you may use Ibuprofen every 6 hours for children over 6 months of age.

The 12 month shots might cause fever 7-12 days after the shots (the incubation period for measles) and a red, sore leg. The fever is usually 101-103° and lasts 2-3 days. You may give acetaminophen (Tylenol®) every 4 hours if awake for fever or discomfort, or you may use Ibuprofen every 6 hours for children over 6 months of age.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol ®) Dosage Chart

Oral Suspension (160 mg/5ml)

Choose the dose closest to your child's weight and give every 4-6 hours as needed.

Weight		Dose 15 mg/kg	Children's & Infant Oral Suspension 160 mg / 5 ml (= 1 tsp)	
pounds	kilograms	mg	ml	teaspoons
6-11	2.7 - 5.3	40 mg	1.25 ml	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp
12 - 17	5.4 - 8.1	80 mg	2.5 ml	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp
18 - 23	8.2 - 10.8	120 mg	3.75 ml	$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp
24 - 35	10.9 - 16.3	160 mg	5 ml	1 tsp
36 - 47	16.4 - 21.7	240 mg	7.5 ml	$1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp
48 - 59	21.8 - 27.2	320 mg	10 ml	2 tsp
60 - 71	27.3 - 32.6	400 mg	12.5 ml	$2\frac{1}{2}$ tsp
72 - 95	32.7 - 43.2	480 mg	15 ml	3 tsp

Redness or swelling at the injection site (most common with the 4-year-old DTaP)

A cool, wet washcloth can provide relief. If redness or swelling at the injection site increases after 24 hours, call the clinic.

When should you call the clinic? (call Medlink if after-hours at 512-660-5396)

Temperature is 104° or higher (2month visit call if temperature is 103° or higher)

Child is pale or limp

Inconsolable crying for more than 3 hours

Child's body is shaking, jerking or twitching

Abnormally high-pitched cry

If you're concerned about how your child looks or feels