

Ear Medication: Ear Drops

1. Wash hands and child's hands.
2. Rub the medicine bottle between the palms of your hands or place in warm water to warm the drops.
3. Feel a drop to make sure drops aren't too hot or too cold.
4. Ask the child to lie down or sit with the affected ear facing up.
5. Observe for any discharge (thick yellow or green substance), pus (cloudy), or blood. (If there is any, do not give medicine and report to parent/guardian.)
6. If there is drainage (clear liquid) remove it with a clean tissue or cotton tipped applicator. Do NOT clean any more than the outer ear.
7. Place the wrist of the hand you will be using to give medicine on the cheek or head.
8. Place the dropper/nozzle above the child's ear canal.

For children UNDER 3 years of age:	For children OVER 3 years of age:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gently pull the outer flap of the affected ear DOWNWARD and backward to straighten the ear canal. b. Look for ear canal to open. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gently pull the outer flap of the affected ear UPWARD and backward to straighten the ear canal. b. Look for ear canal to open.



Hand and dropper position for children 3 years old and younger with earlobe pulled down and back.



Hand and dropper position for children older than 3 years, with earlobe pulled up and back.

9. Squeeze the dropper slowly and firmly to release the appropriate amount of medicine on the side of the ear canal.
10. Ask the child to remain lying down for about 1-2 minutes so the medicine will be absorbed.
11. Gently rub the skin in front of the ear to help the drug flow to the inside of the ear.



Rubbing ear to help drug flow to inside of ear.

12. Place a cotton ball in the child's affected ear to avoid leakage of the medicine. Replace the cotton ball each time the medicine is given. Avoid inserting q-tips® into the ear.
13. Rinse the dropper tip in water after each use before capping or returning it to the bottle.
14. Replace the cap immediately after each use.
15. Wash hands and document medication administration.