

# The Importance of Proper Liquid Medication Dosing



## Did you know?

- A household teaspoon is the device most commonly used by Americans for measuring liquid medication.
- The volume of household teaspoons can range from 2 to 10 mL. The correct volume of a teaspoon is 5 mL.
- When using a measuring cup, 15% of people gave the wrong dose.
- 3 major dosing errors of medicine cups
  - 1) Confusing tablespoons for teaspoons
  - 2) Assuming the whole cup is the recommended dose
  - 3) Assuming the whole cup is the unit of measure
- Dosing errors are the #1 cause of medication errors in pediatric patients



## The right way to measure liquid medications:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends using an oral dosing syringe.
- Advantages of using an oral dosing syringe include accurate measurements, convenience, and availability in various mL amounts.

## References:

1. Madlon-Kay DJ, Mosch FS. Liquid medication dosing errors. *J Fam Practice*. 2004;49(8):741-744.
2. Health and Literacy Special Collection Web site. <http://healthliteracy.worlded.org/doses/index.htm>. Accessed March 15, 2009.