

site is 1 ml for older infants and small children.

- Have medication at room temperature before injection.

Determine site of injection (see [Table 20-6](#)); make certain that muscle is large enough to accommodate volume and type of medication.

- For infants and small or debilitated children, use the vastus lateralis or ventrogluteal muscles; the dorsogluteal muscle is insufficiently developed to be a safe site for infants and small children.

Obtain sufficient help in restraining child.

Explain briefly what is to be done and, if appropriate, what child can do to help.

Expose injection area for unobstructed view of landmarks.

Select a site where skin is free of irritation and danger of infection; palpate for and avoid sensitive or hardened areas.

With multiple injections, rotate sites.

Place child in a lying or sitting position; child is not allowed to stand because landmarks are more difficult to assess, restraint is more difficult, and the child may faint and fall.

- **Ventrogluteal:** On side with upper leg flexed and placed in front of lower leg
- **Vastus lateralis:** Supine, lying on side, or sitting

Use a new, sharp needle (not one that has pierced rubber stopper on vial) with smallest diameter that permits free flow of the