

- If nausea is a problem, give a carbonated beverage poured over finely crushed ice before or immediately after the medication.
- When medication has an unpleasant taste, have the child pinch the nose and drink the medicine through a straw. Much of what we taste is associated with smell.
- Flavorings, such as apple, banana, and bubble gum (e.g., FLAVORx), can be added at many pharmacies at nominal additional cost. An alternative is to have the pharmacist prepare the drug in a flavored, chewable troche or lozenge.*

*Infants will suck medicine from a needleless syringe or dropper in small increments (0.25 to 0.5 ml) at a time. Use a nipple or special pacifier with a reservoir for the drug.

Preparation

The devices available to measure medicines are not always sufficiently accurate for measuring the small amounts needed in pediatric nursing practice. The most accurate means for measuring small amounts of medication is the plastic disposable calibrated oral syringe. Not only does the syringe provide a reliable measure, but it also serves as a convenient means for transporting and administering the medication. The medication can be placed directly into the child's mouth from the syringe.

A device called the Rx Medibottle (The Medicine Bottle Co, Hinsdale, IL) has shown to be more effective in delivering unpleasant tasting oral medication to infants than an oral syringe ([Purswani, Radhakrishnan, Irfan, et al, 2009](#); [Kraus, Stohlmeyer, Hannon, et al, 2001](#)). This device allows an infant to suck juice or other liquids from a nipple attached to a specially designed bottle while receiving undiluted medication dispensed in spurts from a syringe inserted into a central sleeve of the bottle.

Paper cups are totally unsuitable for liquid medications because they collapse easily, are likely to have irregularly shaped or crumpled bottoms, and retain considerable amounts of thick medication. Molded plastic cups have measuring lines and are often supplied with over-the-counter medications for cough and