

ADHD Medication Guidelines for Children under Age 6



Level 0: Comprehensive assessment and psychotherapeutic trial with parent management/skills training/or other behavioral intervention for a minimum 12 weeks

Level 1: Methylphenidate formulations

Level 2: If Level 1 methylphenidate unsuccessful could consider amphetamine formulations (generally about one half to 2/3 of methylphenidate dose)

Level 3: Atomoxetine or alpha-agonist

Taper or discontinuation trial after 6 months of any effective medication treatment

Not Recommended:

- ▶ antipsychotic medications to treat core symptoms of ADHD
- ▶ use of medication without concurrent psychosocial treatment

The use of stimulant medications or atomoxetine for children under age four should be rare and only after a failed behavioral intervention such a parent training.

Medications Used for ADHD in Children under 6 years of Age

Drug	Starting Dose Recommendation
Methylphenidate formulations: <u>Short acting:</u> Focalin, Methylin, Ritalin	2.5 mg t.i.d* *Recommendation extrapolated from the Preschool ADHD Treatment Study (PATS)
Amphetamine Formulations: Short acting: Adderall DextroStat	Generally one half to 2/3 of methylphenidate doses 2.5mg b.i.d 2.5mg b.i.d
Non-stimulant Atomoxetine - Strattera	0.5 mg/kg/day