

■ SUPPOSITORIES

Keep suppositories refrigerated for easier administration. While wearing gloves, moisten the rounded end of the suppository with water or petroleum jelly before insertion. Using your pinky finger for children younger than 3 years of age and your index finger for those 3 years of age and older, insert the suppository into the rectum about 1/2 to 1 inch beyond the sphincter. If the suppository slides out, insert it a little farther than before. Hold the child's buttocks together for a few minutes, and have the child hold the position for about 20 minutes, if possible.

■ TOPICALS

Clean the affected area and dry it well before topical application. Apply a thin layer of medication to the skin, and rub it in gently. Children absorb medication more rapidly through their skin than do adults, so it is important to keep the layer thin unless otherwise ordered. Do not apply a covering over the area unless instructed to do so by the prescriber.

■ METERED-DOSE INHALERS

Generally, the same principles apply to children as to adults, except the use of spacers is recommended for young children.