A rectal suppository is a way to give medications in the rectum. Your child’s doctor will tell you what medication to give and how often to give it.

**How to give a rectal suppository:**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for 15 seconds.
2. Remove your child’s underpants or diaper.
3. Have your child lie on his left side with his knees drawn up to his chest.
4. Remove the suppository from the wrapper.
5. Wet the suppository with warm water, or put petroleum jelly or KY Jelly® lubricant on the suppository. This will make it easier to insert the suppository into your child’s rectum.
6. Spread your child’s buttocks apart.
7. For children under three: use your pinky finger to give the suppository. For children older than three: use your index finger to give the suppository.
8. Gently put the suppository about one inch into your child’s rectum.
9. Hold your child’s buttocks together for at least two minutes. This will keep him from pushing the suppository out.
10. Wash your hands again.

**Remember:**

- Insert the suppository, with the pointed end first.
- If your child is to get half of a suppository, cut the suppository in half lengthwise. Discard any unused suppository 30 days after opening package.
- Be sure to put the suppository all the way into your child’s rectum so it can not be pushed out easily.
- If your child has a bowel movement and the suppository comes out (whole and not melted), put in a new one.
- Store suppositories in a cool place.

**Call your child’s doctor or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if:**

- Your child is not better within two days or he becomes worse.
- Your child develops diarrhea and can not hold the suppository in.