Kids aren’t just little adults. Drugs approved for adults may not fit kids’ needs.

**WHY?**

Compared to adults, children:

- Absorb and eliminate drugs from their bodies differently
- Can experience different side effects
- May require different drug formulations

Most drugs used in kids today have been tested only on adults. Researchers are testing these drugs on kids to answer questions about:

- **SAFETY**
- **DOsing**
- **Formulation**
- **Efficacy**

Since 1998, research—including NICHD-supported studies—has guided the safe and effective use of MORE THAN 400 medications in kids.

**SPOTLIGHT ON NICHD RESEARCH**

An NICHD-funded study on meropenem—an antibiotic approved to treat infection in adults and older children—tested the drug in infants and found that:

- Infants needed dosing adjustments based on prematurity and time after birth.
- The drug was not associated with increased risk for serious side effects.

Meropenem is now FDA approved to treat abdominal infection in infants younger than 3 months. New guidelines ensure safe and effective dosing.

Learn more about pediatric drug research at NICHD.

http://nichd.nih.gov