



Building Blocks to a Brighter Future

Resources to Help Make Sure All Our Kids are "AOK"

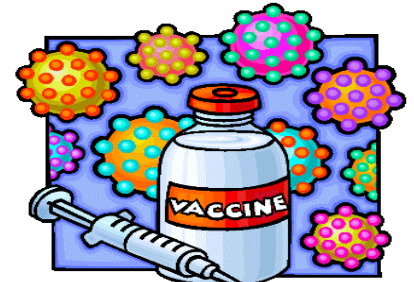
Q&A on Immunizations for your Baby

+ Is it ok for my baby to have so many shots at once?

YES! Studies show that baby's bodies can handle multiple shots at once. Getting several shots (or vaccines) at one time is safe, even for a newborn.

+ Can vaccines cause autism?

NO! Scientific studies have found no relationship between vaccines and autism. Groups of experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Institute of Medicine agree that vaccines do not cause autism.



+ Don't infants have natural immunity?

Babies get some temporary immunity (protection) from mom during the last few weeks of pregnancy – but only for the diseases mom is immune to. These antibodies do not last long, leaving the infant vulnerable to disease.

+ Haven't we gotten rid of most of these diseases in the country?

NO! Many diseases such as chickenpox, whooping cough and measles still cause illness every year in the U.S. Thanks to vaccines though, most of the diseases that are prevented by vaccines are not widespread. Even the few cases we have in the U.S. could become tens or hundreds of thousands if we stopped vaccinating. Kids that are not vaccinated can become very sick and spread it to others within the community.

+ What if I don't want my child to get shots? What are the consequences?

Unvaccinated children are at greater risk of catching and spreading vaccine-preventable diseases. When there is an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease, children who have not had the disease and who have not been vaccinated are often kept out of school or day care until the risk of catching the disease is over, which could last for months. If you do not vaccinate your child you must have a doctor's note that excludes your child from their shots before they can go to school.

+ Can't I just wait until my child goes to school to catch-up on the shots?

Many of the diseases that vaccines can protect against can be very dangerous to infants. Newborns, infants and toddlers can be exposed to these diseases from their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, on a plane, in the grocery store, from almost anyone and any place. It's safer to stay up to date. **Don't wait to protect and risk these diseases ...Immunize NOW!**

+ Where can I get more information?

Kane County Health Department 630-264-7665 or <http://www.kanehealth.com/immunizations.htm>
Center for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/vaccines or 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
Immunization Action Coalition www.immunize.org
American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org
Every Child by Two www.ecbt.org

AOK: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network has Building Blocks to a Brighter Future on several different topics. To read or download go to http://www.kanehealth.com/aok_education.htm



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