

WHY CHILDHOOD VACCINES ARE IMPORTANT

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WHAT IS A VACCINE?

A vaccine is medicine. It usually comes in a shot.

It protects people from getting sick.

A vaccine teaches the body how to fight a disease.



It might be called a vaccine, an immunization, or a shot.

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD GET VACCINATED?

Children are around many germs each day.

That's okay! We just want to keep them safe.

Babies are born ready to fight most germs. But there are some serious diseases their bodies can't handle.

Vaccines make an immune system stronger.

Immunity is your body's defense. It protects your body from diseases.

Vaccines also keep other children safe. They stop diseases from spreading.

Children must have all their vaccines to go to daycare and school.



Thank you to Self Advocates Becoming Empowered for their support of the Vaccine Awareness and Outreach Project as well as Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center, SARTAC Project.

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WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD GET VACCINATED

You might hear people talk about a “vaccine schedule” or an “immunization schedule.”

It is the timeline of when children should get shots.

Children usually get vaccine shots at every well-child doctor’s visit between when they are born and when they turn 2 years old.

The vaccine schedule is made to provide protection at just the right time.

Your child’s well-child visits are set up around this vaccine schedule.

If your child goes to all their regular well-child visits they should get all the vaccines they need!

Getting vaccines on time during childhood is very important.

It is important to get your child to all their visits so their shots stay on schedule.

REMEMBER!

Schedule your child’s next visit before you leave the doctor’s office.

If you need to cancel a visit, always reschedule it right away.



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HOW MANY VACCINES WILL MY CHILD GET?

A child may get more than one vaccine at a visit. That's okay!

You can ask your child's doctor for a list of the vaccines and when your child will get them.

By age 2, your child will be vaccinated against 14 childhood diseases.



ARE VACCINES SAFE? YES!!



Vaccines are tested to make sure they are safe.

They are tested to make sure they work.

They are tested to see what age kids should get them.

WHAT IF I NEED MY CHILD'S VACCINE RECORDS?

School or daycare may ask you for your child's shot or vaccine record.

You can call your child's doctor to get it.

If you have access to an online portal for your child's pediatrician, you can get it there.



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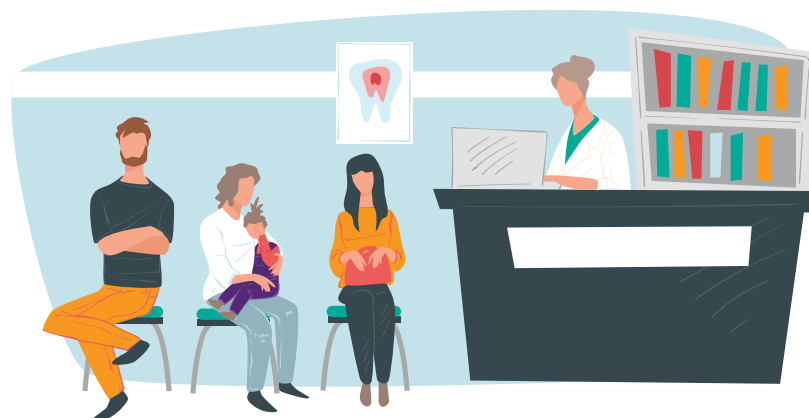
THINK ABOUT THIS BEFORE A DOCTOR'S VISIT:

What do you need for the appointment?

How will you get there? Do you have transportation? Does your child's insurance pay for transportation?

Do you need help at the appointment? Who can come with you?

Do you have questions? Write them down, or make a voice note in your phone.



A RESOURCE:

"Preparing your child for the COVID-19 vaccine: How to make the visit less stressful."

This plain language video and resource have helpful ideas for any visit when your child will get a shot!

<https://achancetoparent.net/covid-19-resources/>

Do you still have questions?

Talk to your child's doctor or another medical professional.

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