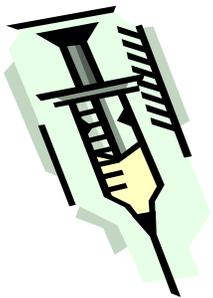


Vaccine Not Given Is 100% Not Effective!



Children receive most of their immunizations between birth and five years. This puts child care providers in a position to serve an important role in making sure all children receive the proper vaccinations. Many child care facilities have policies stating that

children must be up-to-date in order to attend child care. Such policies, in addition to information about when and where to obtain the immunizations, can help increase the number of children who are properly vaccinated.

Vaccination Facts

- Vaccines' have made many serious childhood diseases rare today.
- Fully immunizing children can help protect them from many common infections that can lead to serious and even life threatening complications.
- Vaccines are generally quite safe. The protection provided by vaccines far outweighs the risk of serious problems.
- Some vaccines may have mild temporary side effects such as fever or soreness where the shot was given. Serious reactions are rare.
- Vaccinations usually begin when children are 2 months old and most are finished by the time they are six years old.
- No sound evidence has been found linking vaccinations to asthma, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, SIDS or autism.
- Vaccines can not protect children from minor illnesses like colds.

Is Staff Vaccinated?

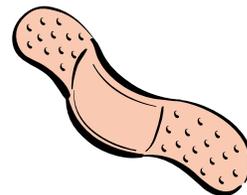
The health of the staff is also very important. Make sure your staff has all the necessary vaccinations too. Ask your health department for local recommendations.

Where Can You Get Vaccinated?

- A physician's office. (Health insurance may not cover all the costs.)
- Your local health department. (Call to get times and locations. These services are available free or at a reduced cost.)
- A free vaccination clinic. (Usually funded by non profit organization. Check the newspaper.)

Talking Points for Parents

- Ask parents to always bring in a copy of their child's most recent vaccination record.
- Send out reminders when vaccinations are due.
- Be knowledgeable about where to go for free vaccinations in your community.
- Provide information to parents to ease their fears about vaccinations.
- Help parents find medical resources to answer their questions.
- Emphasize that each vaccination is given at a specific age and that some must be repeated to be effective.



Social and Learning Opportunities

- Keep in mind that young children may be scared about getting a shot. Using dramatic play and talking with children about shots before they get vaccinated may help alleviate such fears.

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/nip or 800-232-4636.

Immunization Action Coalition: www.immunize.org or 651-647-9009

Information consistent with Caring for Our Children 2002: <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>

ICCHCP Policy Templates: www.iidc.indiana.edu/ecc/res-health.htm

