
Need help responding to vaccine-hesitant parents?

Science-based materials are available from these respected organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

Healthcare providers can find numerous resources on the AAP's website to help with parents and caregivers who have questions about vaccinating their child at www.aap.org/immunization/families/deciding.html, including:

- “Why immunize?”
www.aap.org/immunization/families/whyimmunize.html
- “Are Vaccines Safe?” www.aap.org/immunization/families/safety.html
- “Evaluating Web Information”
www.aap.org/immunization/families/evaluatingwebinfo.html
- “Misconceptions and Frequently Asked Questions”
www.aap.org/immunization/families/faq.html
- When parents cannot be convinced, consider using AAP's Refusal to Vaccinate form at www.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/pdf/RefusaltoVaccinate.pdf.

California Immunization Coalition

The California Immunization Coalition (CIC) has developed several excellent provider pieces that discuss common questions many parents may have regarding vaccines for their children. These include

- “Responding to Parents’ Top 10 Concerns”
http://immunizeca.org/documents/IMM-917_web.pdf
- “Talking with Parents About Vaccine Safety”
http://immunizeca.org/documents/IMM-915_web.pdf
- “Alternate Vaccine Schedules: Helping Parents Separate Fact From Fear” <http://immunizeca.org/documents/IMM-988.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Among CDC's many online immunization resources is the “Parent's Guide to Childhood Immunization,” a 64-page booklet that can be ordered or printed at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/parents-guide.

Other CDC materials, designed to help healthcare providers work with hesitant parents, include the following:

- “If you choose not to vaccinate your child, understand the risks and responsibilities”
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/hcp/conv-materials.htm#understand
- “Parents who question vaccines”
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/parents.htm#question
- “Common questions parents ask about infant immunizations”
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/infants/parent-questions.htm
- “Talking with parents about vaccines for infants”
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/hcp/conv-materials.htm#talkpvi

Every Child by Two (ECBT)

Created by Every Child by Two, www.vaccinateyourbaby.org focuses on answering parents' commonly asked questions about vaccines. It features video clips and links to current vaccine news stories.

Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)

IAC's Talking about Vaccines web section provides healthcare professionals with top vaccination resources from trusted sources such as CDC, AAP, IAC, VEC, and many more. Visit www.immunize.org/concerns. IAC has developed several patient handouts for vaccine-hesitant parents. These include:

- “Clear Answers & Smart Advice About Your Baby's Shots,” an excerpt from the popular book “Baby 411” by Dr. Ari Brown
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2068.pdf
- “Reliable Sources of Immunization Information: Where to go to find answers!” www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4012.pdf
- “Vaccines Work!” www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4037.pdf

Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins University

The Institute for Vaccine Safety collects vaccine-specific safety information. Of particular interest is its “Components of Vaccines” section, which contains tables specifying the contents of various vaccines: www.vaccinesafety.edu/components.htm.

Vaccine Education Center (VEC) Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

- Tear sheets—offered in tear-off pads of 50, intended for physicians to hand out to patients. Useful titles for hesitant parents include “Aluminum in Vaccines,” “The Facts About Childhood Vaccines,” “Thimerosal,” “Too Many Vaccines?,” “Vaccine Ingredients,” and “Vaccines and Autism.”
- Videos—“Vaccines: Separating Fact from Fear” and “Vaccines and Your Baby” come in DVD format.

Materials can be viewed or printed at <http://vaccine.chop.edu/resources>. Tear-off pads and DVDs, as well as other VEC materials, can be ordered at nominal cost.

For parents with concerns about vaccines and autism

AAP has issued a statement that can be printed at www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/autismparentfacts.htm. Parents may wish to investigate further at www.aap.org/healthtopics/Autism.cfm. IAC also recommends these books:

- *Autism's False Prophets: Bad Science, Risky Medicine, and the Search for a Cure*, by Paul A. Offit, MD
- *Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism*, by Roy Richard Grinker, PhD

And, here are two well-researched handouts from IAC:

- “MMR Vaccine Does Not Cause Autism: Examine the Evidence!”
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4026.pdf
- “Evidence shows vaccines unrelated to autism”
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4028.pdf