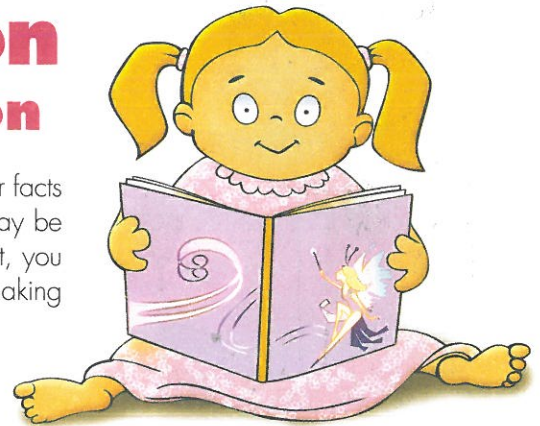


Vaccination Fact vs. Fiction

In your child's life there will be a time for facts and a time for fiction. Though fiction may be perfect for a bedtime story, as a parent, you need the facts when it comes to making decisions about vaccination.



Fiction: Vaccinations don't work.

Fact: Vaccines are an effective means of preventing certain infectious diseases. Examples of successful vaccination programs include smallpox, polio, measles, rubella (German measles), pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, and diphtheria vaccines.

Fiction: Vaccines prevent diseases that no longer exist.

Fact: If a particular disease exists anywhere in the world, your child could be at risk. Smallpox is the only disease that has been wiped out worldwide. In the case of all other vaccine-preventable diseases, the failure to get vaccinated increases the risk for the diseases for both the individual and society.

Fiction: Vaccine side effects are worse than the diseases they prevent.

Fact: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers vaccination safer than accepting the risk for diseases these vaccines prevent. Most side effects are minor and involve temporary soreness, swelling, and redness at the injection site; however, serious side effects may occur. Any questions and other concerns you might have should be discussed with your child's health care professional before the vaccine is prescribed.

Fiction: The vaccine could give my child the very disease it's supposed to prevent.

Fact: It's unusual for a vaccine to cause the disease it's designed to prevent.

Any questions and other concerns you might have should be discussed with your child's health care professional before the vaccine is prescribed.

Fiction: Vaccines can cause SIDS.*

Fact: There is no proof that vaccines cause SIDS.

Any questions and other concerns you might have should be discussed with your child's health care professional before the vaccine is prescribed.

Get the Facts: Vaccines can help protect children from many serious diseases, including polio, whooping cough, meningitis, blood infection, and measles. Without vaccines, many preventable diseases would still be widespread today, resulting in illness, disability, and even death. Fortunately, the United States has recommendations for routine immunization.

Sources of Information to Get the Facts:

- National Immunization Program:
www.cdc.gov/nip
- National Network for Immunization Information:
www.immunizationinfo.org
- American Academy of Pediatrics:
www.cispimmunize.org
- American Academy of Family Physicians:
www.aafp.org
- Your child's pediatrician or other health care provider. He or she will have the most up-to-date information about vaccines and can make sure your child is caught up.

Is your child up-to-date on immunizations? Ask your child's health care provider today.

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