

# **Childhood Immunizations**

## **The Truth about Your Child's Future**

Parents are frequently bombarded with reports warning about the dangers of vaccinations. It's an attention-getting news story, but the truth can be unclear. What's a concerned parent to do?

Find a reliable medical source that exposes myths and states the facts.

### **Do vaccines cause sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)?**

This myth continues to hang around like a bad cold. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, experts agree there's no connection between SIDS and vaccines. Even though vaccinations are increasing, SIDS has decreased.

### **Does the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine cause autism?**

The largest study on this topic was published in 2002, in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The occurrence of autism didn't increase in children with vaccinations.

Most experts agree: autism occurs in the womb during development of the nervous system.

### **Is it okay to skip vaccines since they aren't foolproof?**

Vaccines aren't 100 percent effective every time. But they're the best defense we have against diseases that used to erase whole populations. Small pox is history. And measles caused approximately 450 deaths between 1953 and 1963 in the United States. That's no longer the case.

### **Do vaccines have preservatives containing harmful mercury?**

This is another misunderstood area. In the past, organic mercury was included in one of the many preservatives used. It wasn't the toxic mercury we hear about – like that found in fish. Besides, improved storage has eliminated the need for this preservative even though it wasn't harmful.

### **Are we safe in the United States?**

Millions of children die each year from preventable illnesses. Although the majority of deaths are found elsewhere in the world, Americans travel a lot more now. It takes little time for life-threatening diseases to spread.

It's pretty clear. The benefits of childhood immunizations far outweigh any risks.