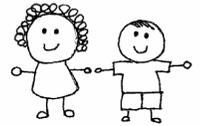


Spy Pond Pediatrics

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Vaccine Policy

Vaccines prevent serious illness, save lives, and are safe to use.

Research has shown that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities, and that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention health care providers can undertake, and that you can perform as parents and caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

There has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination. The vaccine campaign has become a victim of its own success. Because of vaccines, many people have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

For example, in 2010 there were more than 3000 cases of whooping cough in California, with nine deaths in children less than six months of age. Many of those who contracted the illness (and then passed it on to the infants, who were too young to have been fully vaccinated) had made a conscious decision not to vaccinate.

Delaying vaccines to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death).

If you have concerns, please discuss these with Dr. Joyce prior to your visit. If you refuse to vaccinate your child according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers, nor would we recommend any such physician.