

Vaccination Philosophy and Policy

In his autobiography, Benjamin Franklin writes: *"In 1736, I lost one of my sons, a fine boy of four years old, by the smallpox, taken in the common way. I long regretted bitterly, and still regret that I had not given it to him by inoculation (had his son vaccinated). This I mention for the sake of parents who omit that operation, on the supposition that they should never forgive themselves if a child died under it; my example showing that the regret may be the same either way, and that therefore, the safer should be chosen."*

After careful thought and consideration and with the intention to protect your children from life-threatening and serious diseases, our physicians have adopted a [vaccination schedule](#) based on the immunization guidelines as published by The American Academy of Pediatrics, The Centers for Disease Control, and The National Institutes of Health. Today's vaccines and the schedule for immunization are developed under the strictest and most rigorous scientific guidelines and review. As parents ourselves, convinced of the value of the recommended vaccines, we have fully vaccinated our own children.

As a result of the extensive immunization practices in the United States over the past few decades, our children are unlikely to develop deafness or die from Haemophilus meningitis, be confined to a wheelchair for a lifetime as a result of polio infection, or suffer the consequences of encephalitis from measles infection. It is important to remember that while these potentially fatal childhood infections are uncommon, they still do exist. It is our duty to make sure that our children are not afflicted with a deadly or devastating disease which could be prevented by vaccination. We do not accept patients into our practice who refuse immunizations.

Parental concerns regarding immunizations are not new. Here are some links to articles from well respected authorities in the field that you may find helpful:

- [The Facts About Childhood Vaccines: Common Questions and Answers](#)
- [Time magazine: How Safe Are Vaccines?](#)
- [Vaccinate Your Baby](#)
- [Children's Hospital Of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center Information](#)
- ["The Problem With Dr. Bob \(Sears\)'s Alternative Vaccine Schedule"](#)
- ["Clear Answers & Smart Advice About Your Baby's Shots"](#)