

# Childhood Vaccinations

Wondering why vaccinations are recommended? Worried about vaccine side effects?

Have a read of this leaflet, which aims to answer some questions regarding childhood vaccinations!

## Baby Vaccination Schedule



## About these Vaccines

- The **6-in-1 vaccine** is very safe, and provides protection against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, Hib, polio and hepatitis B infections. It is inactivated (killed), and your child cannot get any of these diseases from the vaccine. As a single vaccine, it ensures your child is not injected repeatedly
- The **rotavirus vaccine** is given orally, and provides protection against rotavirus. This vaccine contains a weakened version of the virus, which will help your baby build immunity against the virus
- The **MenB vaccine** immunizes your baby against meningococcal group B bacteria. This bacteria is the leading infectious cause of death in babies and children in the UK
- The **pneumococcal vaccine** is inactivated (killed) and cannot cause the pneumococcal infections it protects against. These infections can cause pneumonia, meningitis and blood poisoning
- The **Hib/MenC vaccine** is a single injection and is very safe. It is inactivated, and will not cause the diseases it protects against
- The **MMR vaccine** is very effective and safe, and protects your child against measles, mumps and rubella. It does not cause autism (see below for more information!)



For more information on vaccines, their safety and efficacy, visit:  
Vaccine Knowledge Project: <https://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/vk/>



## Why vaccines are beneficial

Benefits for your child:

- Protects your child against serious diseases
- Develops your child's immune system

Benefits for the community:

- When enough people are vaccinated, 'herd immunity' develops, which makes it harder for those who cannot get vaccinated to fall seriously ill

## Vaccine myth-busting

- Vaccines **do not** cause autism
  - The source below has compiled 10 articles refuting the link between the MMR vaccine and autism: <https://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/vk/mmr-vaccine>
- Vaccines do not cause allergies

## Possible side effects

- Side effects can depend on the type of vaccine given
- Common side effects are:
  - Pain or redness at the site of injection
  - Fever
  - Irritability on the day of the vaccine

## Treating side effects

- If your child develops a fever, keep him/her hydrated
- Paracetamol for babies (eg. Calpol) can help with a high temperature
- Comforting your child after a vaccination can help calm him/her down

