

Immunize your child for a lifetime of health. What you can do:

1. Start baby's shots on time, which is at birth.
2. Schedule the next visit before leaving the clinic .
3. Comfort your child by:
  - Breastfeeding your baby before and after shots.
  - Bringing a pacifier.
  - Staying calm yourself.
  - Talking in a smooth voice.
  - Holding your child.
  - Bringing a familiar toy or blanket to comfort your child.



Immunizations are also called baby shots, boosters, shots, vaccinations, or vaccines.



It is important that health information is based on reliable science. Your doctor or clinic will give you vaccine information to read.

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# Immunize Your Children. Our Community.



### Immunizations:

one of the greatest achievements of public health. They have been so successful, many parents have never seen the illnesses and problems that vaccines prevent. But these illnesses still exist, and your child needs vaccines to be protected.

## Are Vaccines Safe?

**YES!** Vaccines are very safe, they work, and are recommended. They prevent illness by making the immune system stronger.

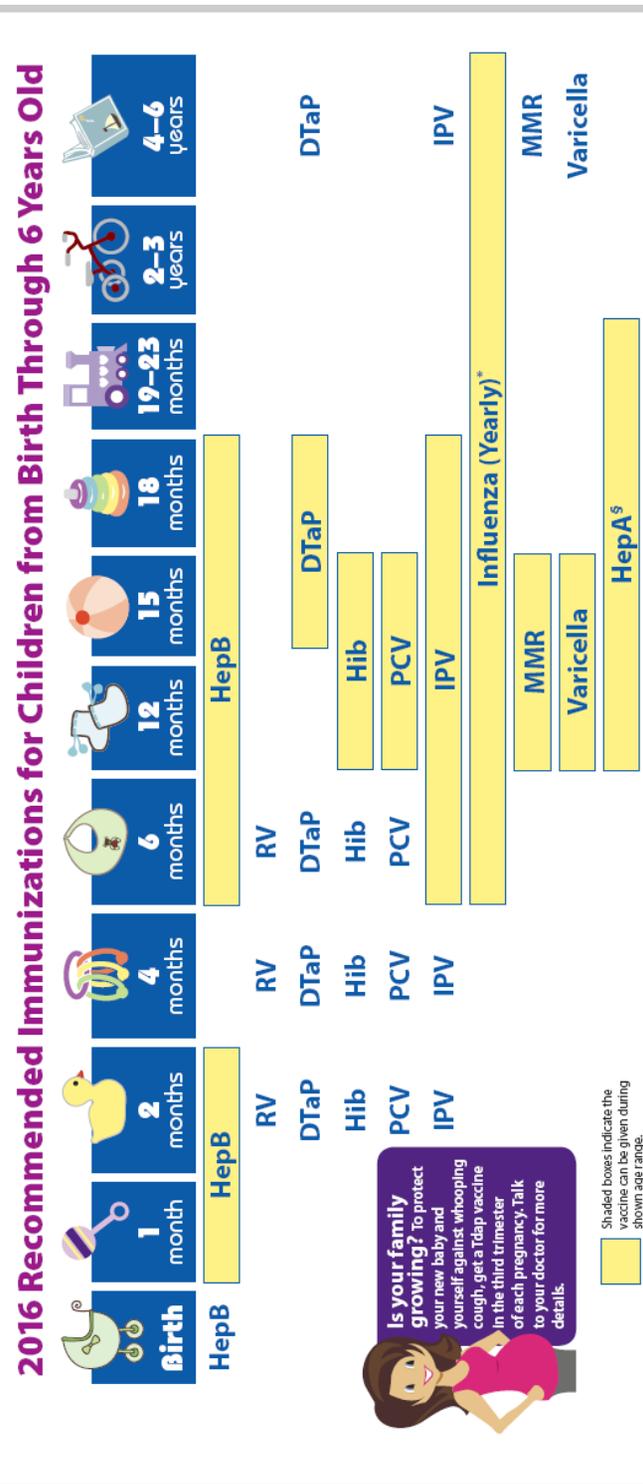
Babies are immunized because some illnesses that vaccines prevent are much more dangerous for babies or young children.

Sometimes children might get mild side effects from the shots, like a fever, a sore arm or leg, or swelling where the shot was given. Your child's doctor or nurse can talk with you about possible side effects and after shot care.

## Why are Immunizations Important?

Immunizations can **protect your child** against illnesses that can make your child very sick. These diseases can even cause brain damage or death.

Immunizations also **protect the community**. If children and even adults do not receive shots, they can pass illnesses to babies and others that are too young or sick to get all their shots.



## What Illnesses Do Vaccines Protect Against?

Disease/Illness (Vaccine)	Disease Complications
Chickenpox (Varicella)	Infected blisters, brain swelling, uncontrolled bleeding, lung infections, death
Diphtheria (DTaP)	Swelling of heart muscles, heart failure, coma, death
Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB)	Swelling of the brain, lung infections, death
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	Liver failure, death
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	Liver failure and liver cancer
Influenza (Flu)	Lung infection
Measles (MMR)	Brain swelling, lung infection, death
Mumps (MMR)	Brain swelling,, swelling of testicles or ovaries, death
Pertussis (DTaP)	Lung infection, death
Polio (IPV)	Unable to move arms and/or legs (paralysis), death
Pneumococcal (PCV)	Blood infection, swelling of the brain, death
Rotavirus (RV)	Severe diarrhea, death
Rubella (MMR)	Very serious in pregnant women, can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects
Tetanus (DTaP)	Broken bones, breathing difficulties, death

For more information on vaccines or the diseases they protect against, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or talk to your child's doctor .