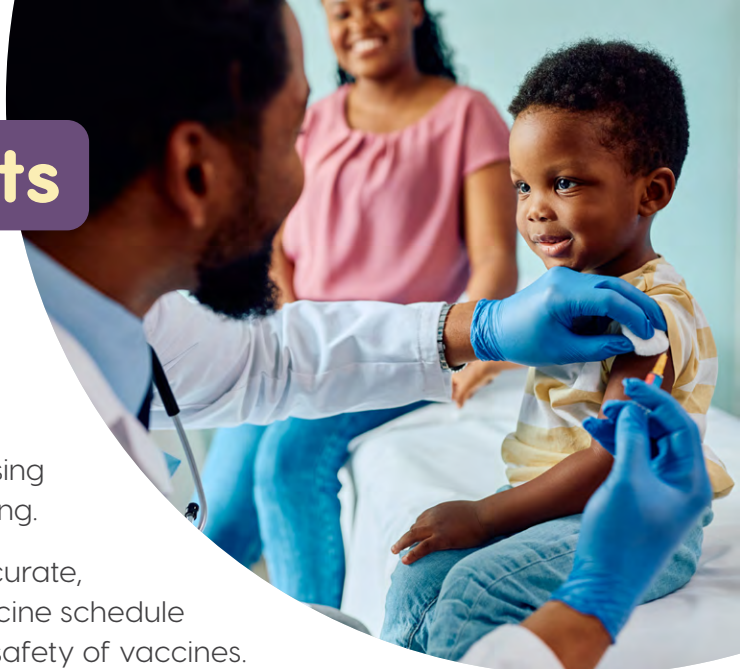


How to Talk to Parents ABOUT VACCINES

A GUIDE FOR NEONATAL NURSES

For many parents, making medical decisions, like choosing whether to vaccinate their infant, may feel overwhelming.

Neonatal nurses play an essential role in providing accurate, evidence-based information about the childhood vaccine schedule and helping parents understand the importance and safety of vaccines.



BE OPEN

Confidently recommend vaccines to parents. If faced with hesitancy, acknowledge that making health decisions can be overwhelming, and encourage them to share their concerns and questions.



LISTEN TO CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS

Parents ask questions because they care about their child's health. Actively listening to concerns and questions can establish a trusted partnership with parents.



ACKNOWLEDGE EMOTIONS

Parents are often asked to make decisions about vaccines at overwhelming and emotional times, like immediately after their child is born or while receiving care in the NICU. They may also be concerned about seeing their child experience discomfort from a vaccine. Acknowledging these emotions can validate parents' feelings and build trust.



RESPOND CLEARLY

Provide clear, fact-based answers to parents. Avoid dramatic or fear-based language while remaining transparent about the risks associated with vaccine-preventable diseases. Clearly explain the benefits of vaccination, potential side effects and the evidence supporting vaccine safety and efficacy.



CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Address any follow-up questions or concerns. If parents refuse vaccination, inform them about the risks associated with this decision and explain what signs and symptoms to watch for. Continue the conversation during the next visit.

Clear communication with parents about vaccination is part of a trusted clinician-parent relationship and can support parents in making informed decisions about their child's health.