

# After the Shots...

Your child may need extra love and care after getting vaccinated. Some vaccinations that protect children from serious diseases also can cause discomfort for a while. Here are answers to questions many parents have after their children have been vaccinated. If this sheet doesn't answer your questions, call your healthcare provider.

**Vaccinations may hurt a little... but disease can hurt a lot!**

Call your healthcare provider right away if you answer "yes" to any of the following questions:

- Does your child have a temperature that your healthcare provider has told you to be concerned about? (105 F)
- Is your child pale or limp?
- Has your child been crying for more than 3 hours and just won't quit?
- Is your child's body shaking, twitching, or jerking?
- Is your child very noticeably less active or responsive?

## What to do if your child has discomfort

### I think my child has a fever. What should I do?

Check your child's temperature to find out if there is a fever. An easy way to do this is by taking a temperature in the armpit using an electronic thermometer (or by using the method of temperature-taking your healthcare provider recommends). If your child has a temperature that your healthcare provider has told you to be concerned about or if you have questions, call your healthcare provider.

### Here are some things you can do to help reduce fever:

- Give your child plenty to drink.
- Dress your child lightly. Do not cover or wrap your child tightly.
- Give your child a fever- or pain-reducing medicine such as acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol) or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil, Motrin). The dose you give your child should be based on your child's weight and your healthcare provider's instructions. *Do not give aspirin.* Recheck your child's temperature after 1 hour. Call your healthcare provider if you have questions.

### My child has been fussy since getting vaccinated. What should I do?

After vaccination, children may be fussy because of pain or fever. To reduce discomfort, you may want to give your child a medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. *Do not give aspirin.* If your child is fussy for more than 24 hours, call your healthcare provider.

### My child's leg or arm is swollen, hot, and red. What should I do?

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the sore area for comfort.
- For pain, give a medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, according to your healthcare provider's instructions (see box below). *Do not give aspirin.*
- If the redness or tenderness increases after 24 hours, call your healthcare provider.

### My child seems really sick. Should I call my healthcare provider?

If you are worried **at all** about how your child looks or feels, call your healthcare provider!

**HEALTHCARE PROVIDER:** PLEASE FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW.

If your child's temperature is 105 °F or 40.5 °C or higher, or if you have questions, call your healthcare provider.

Healthcare provider phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Medication (if needed) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF MEDICATION/TYPE OF FORMULATION

Give \_\_\_\_\_ every \_\_\_\_\_ hours as needed.  
DOSE OR AMOUNT