Pepin and the Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine
Pepin and the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine

Pepin is one year old today!
I am trying to prepare you a surprise party. Please be good.
Do you want to take a nap before your mother comes back?

Dada.

Ta.

NOOOO.

Apa.

SMACK!

I need somebody to help me!
Today Pepin went to the Pediatrician.

He received the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine, also called the MMR.

Are you going to help me?

This vaccine protects babies from serious diseases.

I need to prepare everything for the surprise party!
Measles, for example, can cause rash, cough, and fever...

...and can lead to ear infections, pneumonia...

...diarrhea, seizures...

...brain damage, and even death.
Mumps can cause fever, headaches, swollen glands under the jaw, hearing loss, meningitis...

...and in males, can cause painful swollen testicles and make the person sterile.
Rubella causes rash, mild fever, swollen glands, and arthritis, mostly in women.

If a pregnant woman is infected with Rubella, she can lose her baby...
...or the baby can be born with birth defects such as...

DEAFNESS

BLINDNESS

HEART DISEASE

BRAIN DAMAGE

...or other serious problems.

Can I help Pepin not to get sick?

Vaccination is the best way to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella.
Because most children get the vaccine, the disease has almost been eliminated.

Then, Pepin will not get sick.

Let us continue with the preparations for the party.
If we decreased the number of children being vaccinated...

...there would be many more cases of measles, mumps, and rubella...

...and we could expect thousands to be sick.

Wait a minute, because of the vaccine we almost do not have any more cases of measles, mumps and rubella.

If we totally stopped using the MMR vaccine, we would go back to what we had before.
Before the vaccine was used in this country...

More than 500,000 children had measles

Some 150,000 had mumps

and there were more than 47,000 cases of rubella.

In addition, close to a thousand babies were born with serious defects because their mothers became infected while pregnant.

Pepin did you get the vaccine?
We will go tomorrow to vaccinate you again.

No Megan, Pepin only needs the right doses.

The Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine schedule is as follows:

Most children should have a total of 2 MMR vaccines.

One at 12 to 15 months of age and...

...the second at 4 to 6 years of age or before middle school or junior high school.

Some other vaccinations might be given at the same time.
All children can receive the vaccine?

Certain children should not receive the vaccine...

...including those born with a disease which makes them less able to fight serious infections.

Also included are those treated with radiotherapy or with drugs such as long-term steroids and...

Drugs

Radiotherapy

...children with cancer or with a serious allergy to eggs or to the drug neomycin.
Can I determine that on my own?

The nurse or doctor will determine whether the child should receive the vaccine.

You can ask the nurse or doctor.

Pepin!!!

Children with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections usually should get the MMR vaccine.
It's also important to tell the doctor if the child is moderately or severely ill.

Also tell the doctor if the child had any serious allergic reaction or other problem after receiving the MMR vaccine or...

...ever had a seizure, or has a parent, brother or sister who has had seizures or...

...if the child received gamma-globulin or other blood products, such as a transfusion, in the past several months.
Did the vaccine hurt Pepin?

Most of the people who receive the MMR vaccine have no significant side effects.

There can be minor reactions. The most frequent are...

- Soreness
- Redness or
- Swelling

...where the shot was given.
One to two weeks after the first dose, there might be other minor reactions...

...such as swelling of the lymph nodes in the neck, or under the jaw...

...or swelling of the salivary glands in front of the ear lobes.

I think that I had a reaction to the vaccine.

Well, I had the vaccine a few years ago when I was a baby.

Few years ago?
Minor reactions occur in 5 to 15 out of every 100 doses and includes fever and rash.

Fever of 103 or higher and/or a rash can occur and usually last 1 to 2 days.

Infrequently, seizures can occur from the fever.

One to three weeks after the first dose, one out of every 100 young women might experience pain, stiffness, or swelling in one or more joints lasting up to 3 days.

Rarely, and most commonly in women, the pain or stiffness lasts a month or longer, or might come and go.
Low number of platelets (a type of blood cell) which can lead to bleeding problems.

Can you take something for the pain?

Acetaminophen or ibuprofen (non-Aspirin pain relievers) can be used to reduce fever and soreness.

Oh Megan! You did not receive the vaccine.
Severe problems occur very rarely and can include:

- Serious allergic reactions.
- Long-term seizures.
- Decreased consciousness or
- Coma.
Problems following the MMR vaccine are much less common after the second dose.

As with any medicine, a vaccination can involve serious, though very rare, risks, such as seizures and anaphylaxis.

Seizures

Anaphylaxis

Still, the risks from the vaccine are much smaller than the risks from the disease!
If there is a serious reaction: Call a doctor or get the person to a doctor right away.

Write down what happened and the date and time it happened.

Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Report Form or call toll free, 1-800-822-7967 www.vaers.org
The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

provides financial compensation for persons thought to be injured by vaccines

For details call toll free,

1-800-338-2382

www.hrsa.gov/osp/vicp