

# Childhood Vaccines: Start the Conversation

Some parents have concerns or uncertainties surrounding vaccinations. Effective communication can break down those barriers and promote on-time vaccination. Here are some tips to help you start the conversation.

- Ensure you address any questions caregivers have and express empathy toward them.
- Highlight the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases and the importance of herd (population) immunity in keeping our children safe.
- Provide accurate information about the vaccine, its safety, efficacy and the importance in preventing related diseases.

➤ Provide a strong vaccination recommendation utilizing presumptive language. ➤

“Today, your child will receive vaccines that protect against RV, DTaP, Hib, PCV and polio. Do you have any questions?”

- Use positive motivators.
- Encourage steps such as scheduling a vaccination appointment.

“Hi, I want to make sure that all of your questions and concerns have been answered. We appreciate you being proactive about your child’s health.”

➤ Follow up with them to address any additional questions and recognize their efforts in making informed decisions about their child’s health. ➤



Pro Tip: Understanding the unique needs of your patients is key. Identify their barriers and find innovative ways to address their hesitancy. Together, we can ensure protection from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Visit [ldh.la.gov/page/childrens-vaccine](http://ldh.la.gov/page/childrens-vaccine) for more info.