

National Immunisation Symposium Views of a Parent

Presented by Tracey Collis

Personal Knowledge of Vaccines

- Only remember B.C.G. and Rubella in secondary school, all lined up and vaccinated, consent form signed by parent prior to vaccine.

Vaccine History of Children

- One son, 8 months old, born in Ballinasloe Hospital, routine vaccines to date B.C.G. given in Athlone Health Centre, 5 in 1, Men C at 2, 4 and 6 months in local G.P. surgery.

Introduction to childhood immunisation for my son.

- Reading information during pregnancy myself.
- Antenatal class provided some information.
- Public Health Nurse called after birth, left booklet and advised that I would get appointment in post for B.C.G. Clinic.
- Discussed immunisations myself with G.P. at six week check.
- Postal reminder from H.S.E.

Concerns about immunisations

- No concerns about primary B.C.G., 5 in 1 and Meningitis C immunisations.
- I have some concerns about M.M.R. vaccination, due to publicity in media over the past few years, however, I will research this and discuss with G.P./Practice Nurse prior to immunisation.
- Written information and video are available from H.S.E./G.P. regarding MMR.

Message to parents

- Ask questions, it may be a good idea to write down questions.
- Research vaccines, discuss with G.P./Practice Nurse/friends/parent groups/internet.

Message to Professionals

- Explain what vaccines are and what to expect after vaccines.
- Although I had read, in the booklet, about immunisations I feel it would be a good idea to have this information reinforced on the day ie: reminder about the booklet or new copy if needed, explaining the vaccines, answering frequently asked questions and what to expect after vaccines.