

Southlake Pediatrics Vaccine Policy Statement

As healthcare providers dedicated to the health and well being of your child, we firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important intervention we perform as your child's physician. As a parent or caregiver, it is also one of the most direct ways you can proactively improve your child's health. Prevention of death and disability from vaccine preventable diseases is the cornerstone of Pediatrics.

As part of this philosophy, our physicians are strong supporters of the vaccine program as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. We do not agree with delaying or omitting any of the recommended vaccines. We have developed this policy statement to further inform our patients and their families. **We firmly believe:**

- Childhood vaccines are critically important to a child's long term health.
- In the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.
- In the safety of our vaccines.
- Based on all literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- Delaying or "breaking up" the vaccines to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers. *There is no medical benefit to splitting shots.*

We recognize that there is controversy in the media regarding vaccinations and that the choice to vaccinate may be an emotional one for some parents. As physicians, we feel strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. When parents refuse to vaccinate their children, they not only put their own children at risk, they also pose a danger to younger infants and children in our community who may not yet have been vaccinated. We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child.

Parents who refuse to vaccinate their children will be asked to find another practice who share your views. By signing the **Acknowledgements and Permission Form Section IV "Acknowledgement of Vaccine Policy Statement,"** you are committing to immunize your child according to the schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). If for any reason you refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another practice who shares your philosophy.