

Meet the Vaccines Read Aloud

Activity Guide

Learning Objectives:

- Vaccines prepare your body to recognize and remove harmful germs.
- Different vaccines prepare your body for different germs.

Materials:

- *Meet the Vaccines: Helping You Stay Healthy* slide deck
- Projection setup (e.g., computer connected to a TV monitor or projector/screen)
- Open area of floor (such as a circle time rug)
- *Note: If a projection setup is not available, or if you are working with smaller groups of children, the story slides can also be printed in landscape format on tabloid/ledger size paper (17" x 11").*



Advance preparation:

Before using the activity, read through the story to familiarize yourself with the flow. You will notice that most of the text is bold and large, but some of the text is smaller and a more “handwritten” font. The bold text is the main story text. The smaller text is meant to help you engage with your young learners. This text helps them to make connections to the story, move their wiggly bodies, or interact with you and each other.

What to do:

1. Introduce the activity by asking children to think about a time they visited a doctor.
 - *Have you ever been to the doctor?*
 - *Were you sick when you went? Have you ever been to the doctor when you weren't sick?*
 - *What was the doctor's office like?*
 - *What kinds of things did you do while you were there? What did the doctor and nurses do?*
 - *Have you ever gotten a vaccine before at the doctor's office?*
2. Explain that you're going to read a story. Read the title slide. Ask students to tell you about what they see and what they think the book might be about. Encourage all answers and make sure to hear from many children.
 - *What do you see?*
 - *What do you think those little bottles on the front are?*
 - *What do you notice about what the pink character on the front is wearing? Have you seen that type of clothing before?*
 - *What do you think this story might be about?*

3. Read the story aloud, making sure that all children can see the pictures as you read. Make sure you use the smaller facilitation text to help keep students engaged with the story. Follow these helpful tips during this activity:
 - Read slowly and clearly, making sure that all children can see the pictures.
 - Have fun while you read! The more fun you are having, the more the children will follow your lead and engage positively with the story.
 - When you ask a question, give the children time to think about it before you take answers. Repeat their answers and don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions of the children.
 - Invite other grownups present (teachers, caregivers, aides, etc.) to sit and engage with the story, too.
 - It's okay if some children move around while they listen to the story. Just because a young child is laying down, standing up, or rocking on their knees, doesn't mean they are not paying attention.
 - Be kind and forgiving to yourself!
 - If it feels like chaos, that's okay!
 - If you need to stop for the day and try again another day, that's okay, too!
 - If you can only look at the first page and use it to introduce the Germ Catchers activity, that's okay!
4. After you finish the story, show the first slide again. Ask the children to tell you about what's happening. Encourage them to make connections between the story and their own experiences with vaccines and germs.
 - *Now, do we know that those little bottles are? Why do they have different labels?*
 - *Which of those vaccines would help your body to learn how to fight the green germ on this page?*
 - *Why do you think the helper has a cape and boxing gloves on this page?*

Optional Extension:

1. If time and space allow, encourage children to pretend that they are visiting the doctor. Measure their height, check their eyes and ears, and test their reflexes. If there are stuffed animals or action figures in the classroom, these toys can be the patients instead. The children can be doctors and nurses and give their patients their checkups.

What's going on:

Vaccines give your body instructions to learn what a virus (like the coronavirus that causes COVID-19) looks like. Then your body breaks down the vaccine and flushes it out. If you catch the virus later, your body can recognize it and attack it right away. You're less likely to get seriously sick because your body is prepared. In this story, this process is simplified to focus on how vaccines teach your body to respond to a future infection.

Credits and rights:

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