**Multi-cultural parents and Vaccination**

Multi-cultural parents are father and mothers from different countries who speak different language and have different cultural difference. For example, a man from Nigeria married a lady from Kenya. The man speaks a different vernacular language from the Kenyan lady. In Kenya for example there 42 tribes. All these tribes have not only their language, but different culture.

Charter schools are schools which are founded by the government but operated by private owners which are managed by companies. They are not necessarily at the same level with traditional public schools.

Immunization for children in charter schools involves health law requirement for students/ children to get certain vaccines to attend childcare/schools and is funded by public government and controlled by private sector /institutions.

Children in charter schools receive several immunizations at different ages.

The table below shows the child immunization schedule.

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| MONTHS | AGE(YRS) | VACCINES |
|  | Birth | Hepatitis B (HepB) |
| 1-2 | Hepatitis B (HepB) |
|  2 | Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP); Inactivated poliovirus (IPV); Rotavirus (RV); Haemophiles influenza type B (Hib). |
|  6 | Pneumococcal conjugate (PCU); Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP); Inactivated poliovirus (IPV); Rotavirus (RV); Haemophiles influenza type B (Hib). |
| 6-18 | HepA, IPV Inactivated poliovirus (IPV) |
|  12 | Hepatitis A (HepA) |
| 12-15  | MMR, VAR, Hib, PCV 13 |
| 15-18 | Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP) |
| 18-23 | Hepatitis B (HepB) |
| YEARS | 4-6 | Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP) Inactivated poliovirus (IPV) Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), Varicella (VAR). |
| 11-12 | DTAP Booster, Human papillomavirus (HPV) |
| 16  | Meningococcal |

 **THE ROLE OF MULTICULTURAL PARENTS IN IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN IN CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Multicultural parents have an important role to play in immunization of their children in charter schools. Here are some ways that multicultural parents can involve themselves in immunizations for their children in charter schools:

1. **Maintaining a Positive attitude**

Some cultures do not allow immunization to their children. However, parents should not be led by their cultures. They should create a positive attitude towards immunization in their children. This will make their children to accept immunization easily.

1. **Taking the children for immunization & Participation in the activities**

Parents should take their children for immunization at the right time and at the right place without fail. Many charter schools host vaccination clinics where students can receive the vaccines that they need. Parents can participate in these clinics by bringing their children to get vaccinated and by volunteering to help with the clinics.

1. **Creating awareness and staying informed**

Multicultural parents should create awareness in the society about immunization. Parents should educate themselves about the importance of immunizations and the risks of not vaccinating their children. They can consult with their child's healthcare provider or school nurse to learn more about the vaccines that their child needs and when they should be administered.

1. **Advocate for immunization policies**

Parents can advocate for immunization policies at the school and community level. They can work with school administrators, healthcare providers, and community leaders to promote immunizations and ensure that all children have access to the vaccines that they need.

1. **Attend school meetings.**

Parents can attend school meetings to learn about the school's immunization policies and procedures. They can also ask questions and voice any concerns that they may have.

1. **Encourage other parents**:

Multicultural parents can encourage other parents in their community to vaccinate their children. They can share information about the benefits of immunizations and help dispel any myths or misconceptions that other parents may have.

1. Decision-making

Parents are responsible for making decisions about whether to vaccinate their children. However, a growing number of parents are delaying vaccinations or choosing not to vaccinate their children altogether, which increases the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.

1. Primary source of information

Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals are the primary source of information for parents about routine childhood vaccination. Parents trust the recommendations of their healthcare providers over other sources of information. Therefore, healthcare professionals have a critical role in providing accurate and evidence-based information to parents.

1. Communication and education

Healthcare professionals can engage in face-to-face discussions with parents to inform and educate them about vaccination. These discussions can take place on an individual basis or in group settings. Effective communication that is respectful and builds trust can help address parents' concerns and hesitations about vaccination.

1. Providing information and answering questions

Healthcare professionals can answer parents' questions, provide educational materials, and ensure that families have access to accurate and reliable information about vaccines. Parents consider their child's healthcare professionals to be their most trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines

 Influencing attitudes and behaviors: An appropriately designed information or educational intervention can potentially influence not only parents' knowledge but also their attitudes, perceptions about their peers, sense of self-efficacy, intention to vaccinate, and ultimately, their vaccination behaviors2

 . Healthcare professionals can play a role in educating parents and addressing any misconceptions or concerns they may have.

 Parent-physician communication: The parent-physician relationship plays a significant role in parents' knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards vaccination. Physicians have the opportunity to improve parents' knowledge and attitudes through effective communication and education4

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Overall, parents' involvement and understanding of immunization projects in schools are essential for the success of these initiatives. Healthcare professionals can play a vital role in providing accurate information, addressing concerns, and promoting vaccination to ensure the health and well-being of children.