# IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

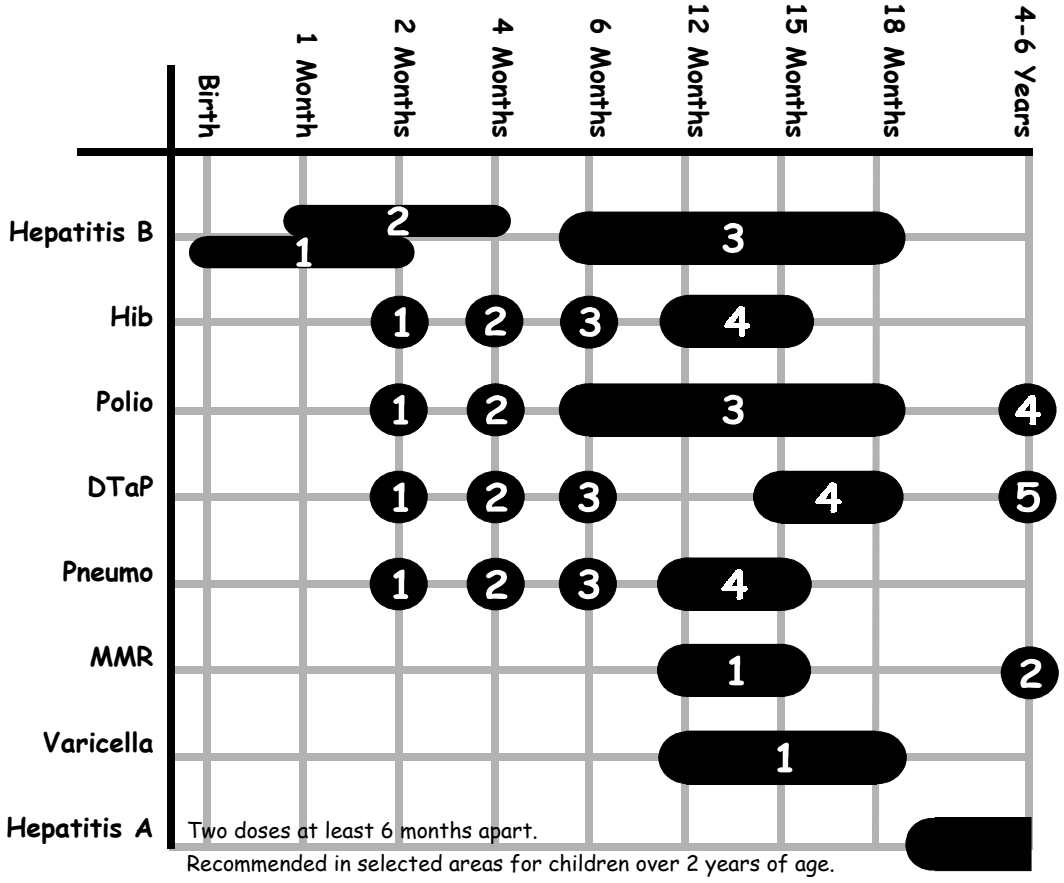
Vaccines work best when they are given at certain ages. For example, measles vaccine is not usually given until a child is at least a year old. If it is given earlier than that, it may not work as well. On the other hand, DTaP vaccine should be given over a period of time, in a series of properly-spaced doses.

The following chart shows the routine childhood immunization schedule. It tells you:

**What childhood vaccines are recommended**, and **the ages they should be given**.

Read **across the chart** to see how many doses of each vaccine are recommended, and when. Read **down the chart** to see which vaccines are given at specific ages.

A **circle** means the vaccine should be given at that age. A **bar** means it may be given at any point over a period of time. For example, the first dose of polio vaccine should be given at 2 months, but the third dose may be given at any time between 6 and 18 months.




This chart is based on the Immunization schedule recommended by CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. 2002

**What if Your Child Misses a Shot?**

For most vaccines, it is never too late to catch up on missed shots. Children who missed their first shots at 2 months of age can start later. Children who have gotten some of their shots and then fallen behind schedule can catch up without having to start over. If you have children who were not immunized when they were infants, or who have gotten behind schedule, contact your doctor or the health department clinic. They will help you get your children up-to-date on their immunizations.

[NOTE: Don't postpone your child's immunizations just because you know she can catch up later. Every month she goes without her scheduled immunizations is a month she's not fully protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.]

**Combination Vaccines**

A combination vaccine is more than one vaccine contained in a single shot. Doctors and parents both like them because they allow a child to get several vaccines at once without having to get as many injections. Several combination vaccines are already in use (for example, MMR, DTaP, Hib/hepatitis B) and more are on the way.