



## **The Kids Clinic - 93% of Two-Year-Old Patients Up-To Date on Vaccines**

The Kids Clinic in Spokane, WA receives the honor of having the highest childhood rates of all Immunize WA recognition program applicants. An impressive 93% of all Kids Clinic's two year olds are complete for their entire 4313314 vaccination series, which includes four doses of DTaP, three polio, one MMR, three Hib, three Hepatitis B, one Varicella, and four doses of PCV vaccine. Amanda Parrish, CMA, a representative of the clinic, gave some insight to their success.

"We treat any visit as an opportunity for a vaccine," she says, "even sick visits." The clinic does not regularly take new patients, except for a limited number of newborns – and immunizations are addressed before the first visit. The doctors are very passionate about vaccinations, and so the staff checks the patient record for immunizations beforehand, and has the conversation at every single visit. Their biggest challenge, Amanda reported, is debunking anti-vaccine media scares and anecdotal stories from "Doctor Google," as they refer to it. By having constant recommendations from the doctors and staff, the acceptance of recommended vaccines has been improved, and non-vaccinating parents usually find themselves more comfortable seeking care elsewhere. At the Kids Clinic, "patient safety and the overall health of the community" are the motivators to keep their immunization standards high.

When asked what advice they would give to other practices who want to improve rates, Dr. Thompson said, "We promote a culture of timely and comprehensive vaccination and utilize combination vaccines when possible to minimize the number of pokes." Amanda noted that too often, immunization opportunities get missed, and to "Check ahead of time!" even for non-immunization visits. Preparation, utilizing the IIS, and employee training are the keys to success.

And, of course, "treating any visit as an opportunity to vaccinate."