



WELL BABY CARE

Fifteen month check-up

IMMUNIZATIONS: At this check-up, your baby will receive DTaP and Hib vaccine, and possibly Hepatitis A. As with previous shots, your baby may get a little bit of a fever. Your baby may also develop a tender lump underneath the site where the shot was given.

TOILET TRAINING: You may wonder when to start toilet training. We feel that most babies are not mature enough to begin toilet training until sometime around two years of age. So hang in there for now.

FEEDING: Your baby should NOT be on the bottle. Children at this age usually don't eat very much, they gain weight very slowly. Be careful about choking. Don't give nuts, raisins, marshmallows, gum, popcorn, or hard candies.

FEVER: It is ok to give your child Tylenol or Ibuprofen (see dosing sheet for correct dosage), but if your child has a high fever – greater than 103.4 rectally – and you do not know why, the baby should be seen within 24 hours.

CAR SAFETY: Your baby should be using a car seat anytime you drive. Sitting on a mother's lap is totally unacceptable. We have taken care of many babies with serious injuries that were sitting on their mother's lap during an accident. Please do NOT learn the hard way- use a car seat and strap your child in even on short trips around town. Remember, deaths due to car accidents are the number one cause of death in children this age.

WATER SAFETY: You should never leave a bucket or doggy bowl with water where the child can reach. If you have pool, you should have a four-sided fence with a self-latching gate. Nothing can replace constant adult supervision, but since 24 hour adult supervision is impossible, barriers like a 4-sided fence are necessary. Remember, deaths due to drowning are the #2 cause of death in children this age.

DISCIPLINE: You have probably noticed that your child is getting further into his "terrible two's". Your child needs autonomy and independence and the chance to develop a sense of confidence, so this is an important stage to go through. But your child also needs guidance and discipline. This is the time to teach your child desired and undesired behaviors. Help your child understand when he is doing something wrong, but don't forget to praise him.