**Vaccines**

There is a common misconception that vaccines cause autism in children stemming from a paper published in 1998 and furthered by the movement against the MMR triple shot in the early 2000s. A child can be born with autism they just will not show signs of it until they are between the ages of one and three. This is also around the time that they are given their first dose of the MMR vaccine, which is what caused parents to establish a link between the two. However, scientists have said that the results from the study in 1998 couldn’t be replicated and the doctor was stripped of his license. Furthermore, Denmark initiated a case study to investigate the differences in autism rates between a group of children who were vaccinated and a group who were unvaccinated and found that there were was no difference between the two. Twelve other countries followed with their research and found the same thing. There has not been any reputable research that proves that there is a link between autism and vaccines.

Some moms also don’t believe that we need vaccines because they think the diseases they protect us from are gone. Vaccines may have eradicated them from America, but that doesn’t mean they’re completely gone. Many of these diseases are still prevalent in other countries where they don’t have the resources to protect themselves from them. An unvaccinated person can travel to one of these countries, catch the disease, and spread it to others who are unvaccinated, such as your child or someone you’re close to. We’ve seen this happen with multiple measles outbreaks here and in the UK over the past two decades. In 2008, a family went on a trip abroad and their child contracted measles, bringing it back to their community.

Ask your grandparents, they probably remember a time where diseases like polio, measles, and whooping cough had a larger effect on their community. This is similar to the times we’re living in now with Coronavirus, a disease that is spread easily and killing many, but we don’t have a way to treat it or a vaccine to prevent it. Before vaccines, measles and whooping cough had a high contraction and mortality rate and polio often lead to physical disabilities. While living through a pandemic, wouldn’t you want to get back to normal? Vaccines are the reason why we don’t fear outbreaks of measles and polio as much.