Reliable Resources

The internet is full of information. Some of it is good, helpful information rooted in fact and some of it is unreliable information that comes from people's opinions. Vaccinations tend to be a hard topic to talk about and because of that the internet is filled more with people's opinions than it is with real science facts.

However, there are ways to figure out which sites are good and reliable:

- Look at the website address; does it end in .gov, .org, .edu, or .com? Government sites, professional health sites, educational institution sites, and other established organizations have information that is based in science.

- Check the author's name; are they qualified to be writing about the topic? Do they have the right credentials?

- Make sure that there is contact information on the page. If a website was created and is maintained by a professional organization that is credible outside the internet, they will give you information about how to contact them in case you have any questions. This information is usually found on the bottom of the webpage.

- Check to see if the links on the page work. Do they lead to real websites? Are the links maintained and up to date?

- Check to make sure that what is being discussed is relevant to the topic. Are the links and other articles around the page related to the purpose of the site? Is the writing skewed one way or the other? Are they trying to get only their view point across rather than actual facts?

When it comes to vaccines and child health, these sites are a great choice:

- http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/
- http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html
- http://www2.aap.org/immunization/
- http://www.vaccines.gov/
- http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center#.VbpAD7NViko
- http://www.ecbt.org/images/articles/eBookOfDiseases.pdf
- http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4012.pdf

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