

# Autism Continued...

## what is happening to our kids?

**Editors note:** In the last issue of *Vacaville Magazine* we featured an article that focused on the controversial subject of Autism and the link to childhood vaccines. In this article we featured two different stories, one from a parent who has a child with Autism and another from a natural healing doctor. We had hoped that we would have been able to also feature the medical point of view but circumstances beyond our control prohibited us printing all points of view within the same issue. As promised though, below is the medical point of view to the Autism subject and the link to childhood vaccines. If you missed the previous article please visit our website at [www.vacamag.com/autism](http://www.vacamag.com/autism) to view the article.

### Studies Show No Link Between Autism and Vaccines

Parents and physicians must work together to protect children from preventable illnesses and vaccines for diseases like measles, meningitis and hepatitis are an important part of that protection. In fact, serious health threats such as polio, diphtheria and tetanus are now rarely seen in the United States thanks to widespread vaccination.

Some parents, however, have concerns about a possible connection between childhood vaccines and Autism. These concerns arose after researchers observed that Autism symptoms tend to appear in toddlers between 15 to 18 months old—the same time that young children receive vaccines for measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) and chicken pox. Despite this correlation, no medical evidence links the two events. In 2009, another study concluded that there is no clear pattern of possible association between getting vaccinated and developing Autism.

I advise parents to immunize their children, following approved vaccination guidelines, such as those outlined in Sutter Health's Preventive Health Care Guidelines. This can be less stressful to the children by decreasing number of vaccines given to children. If you choose not to vaccinate your child, your doctor may ask you to sign an Informed Refusal sheet.

### What Is Autism?

Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder, consists of multiple neuro-developmental problems that result in children not communicating in a normal fashion. "We really don't understand why some children develop Autism and others don't," says Brigitte Randle, M.D. "There seems to be a clear genetic disposition and possibly some environmental triggers, such as overstimulation from TV, food and other chemicals that a child is exposed to."

Dr. Randle explains that symptoms can include repetitive movements, an inability to focus on people and regressed or delayed speech development. Signs typically show around age 1 ½ to 2 years. "Autism can be mild in nature or extremely serious," she says.

Because no clear-cut cause for Autism has been found, research continues into how to treat the condition, says Dr. Randle. "Researchers are starting to study drug therapies, but more common treatment includes occupational, speech and physical therapy, as well as neuropsychology and dietary changes." ■

Brigitte Randle, M.D., a board certified pediatrician affiliated with Sutter Regional Medical Foundation and on-staff at Sutter Solano Medical Center, sees patients in the Vacaville care center. You may request an appointment with her online at [srmf.org](http://srmf.org) or by calling 707-427-4900.



*My granddaughter visits me regularly at Paramount House, now that I live closer to my family. I am happier now that I have the freedom to live on my own and have my family visit.*

*Life is good ....*

*for residents at Paramount House.*

### Family Empowerment Lunch

Specifically designed to help equip families cope with their loved ones with Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease and/or other various Senior issues. Meeting once a month.

Thursday, January 28th at noon to 1pm  
**Care Giver Burnout**

Tuesday, February 9th from noon to 1pm  
**Partnering with Home Health Care**

All lunches are free and open to the public. Please RSVP so we can plan for enough lunch and refreshments. Please call Melinda Graves at (707) 455-0300.



**PARAMOUNT HOUSE**  
**SENIOR LIVING**  
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

**(707) 455-6087**

2061 Peabody Road, Vacaville, CA 95687  
[www.paramounthouseeniorliving.com](http://www.paramounthouseeniorliving.com)  
License Pending



Prime Rib...



Prime Time TV...



Prime Real Estate...



**Everything is better in it's PRIME**

*Prime Time Seniors*  
**LIVING THE GOOD LIFE**

Solano County's **PREMIER** Senior Magazine  
for Mature Adults 50+

*Pick up a FREE copy today!*

**707-449-1270**

**[www.primetimeseniors.com](http://www.primetimeseniors.com)**