One Minute Guide

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Personal Child Health Record (Red Book) and Vaccinations

 No 38, January 2019

 V1.14.01.19

**The Red Book**

When a baby is around 10 days old, the child’s Health Visitor will give the parent the baby’s **Personal Child Health Record or ‘Red Book’.** A child’s ‘Red Book’ hold’s their health and progress information. The Red Book is an important book in the early years and serves as a record of a child’s growth and development over time. It is expected that this book is taken by the carer when a child has appointments with the health visitor, clinic, GP or hospital and that the book is in possession of the primary carer for the child.

The Red Book contains the child’s details and information about their [growth and development](http://www.madeformums.com/your-baby-month-by-month/47.html)

it’s where their measurements are recorded and their [immunisations](http://www.madeformums.com/baby-health-and-safety/immunisations---a-mums-guide/15922.html) are detailed.

**What’s in the Red Book?**

The red book is divided into four sections:

• Child, Family and Birth details/Local and Information Sources - This first section of the book lists the child’s name, NHS number and date of birth. It contains personal information (address, parent names and history) as well as the details of the parent’s birth experience and discharge from hospital. It also will contain find information about local and national services, such as West Sussex’s [Children and Family Centres](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/find-my-nearest/children-and-family-centre/) and [national parenting support](https://www.familylives.org.uk/).

• Immunisations - The second section of the Red Book is where their immunisations are recorded and explained. Each time a child has a vaccine, the nurse will record it in their book.

• Screening and Routine Reviews - This section records information on [screening tests and other health checks](http://www.madeformums.com/your-newborn/your-newborn-babys-very-first-tests-and-checks/4628.html). These checks include hearing tests and checks of the baby’s eyes. It’s also where the Health Visitor will record the findings of the child’s [9 month](https://www.pampers.co.uk/baby/development/article/well-baby-visit-9-month-baby-check-up) and [two year development check](https://patient.info/doctor/two-year-child-development-check) to monitor their progress.

• Growth Charts and Other Information - The final section of the Red Book contains information about growth and development (what is typically achieved at each stage of your child’s young life) as well as the [growth charts](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/growth-charts) to record the child’s height, weight and head circumference. The importance of growth charts are not always what percentile the child is on but rather that their growth is stays on, or around the same centile over time to ensure they are adequately developing.

**Vaccinations timeline**

There is a clear national schedule for vaccinations to ensure best protection, although with some it may be possible to catch up later in life. If the red book is not located then the GP practice has a further record of the vaccinations.

**8 weeks old:** [6-in-1 vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/6-in-1-infant-vaccine/),(given as a single jab containing vaccines to protect against six separate diseases: diphtheria; tetanus; whooping cough (pertussis); polio; Haemophilus influenzae type b, known as Hib, a bacterial infection that can cause severe pneumonia or meningitis in young children; and hepatitis B. [Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pneumococcal-vaccination/), [Rotavirus vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/rotavirus-vaccine/),

[MenB vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/meningitis-b-vaccine/)

**12 weeks old:**, [6-in-1 vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/6-in-1-infant-vaccine/) second dose. [Rotavirus vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/rotavirus-vaccine/)., second dose.

**16 weeks old:**, [6-in-1 vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/6-in-1-infant-vaccine/) third dose. [Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pneumococcal-vaccination/)., second dose. [MenB vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/meningitis-b-vaccine/) second dose.

**1 year old:** [Hib/MenC vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hib-men-c-booster-vaccine/), given as a single jab containing vaccines against meningitis C (first dose) and Hib (fourth dose). [Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/) given as a single jab. [Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pneumococcal-vaccination/), third dose., [MenB vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/meningitis-b-vaccine/) third dose

**2 to 9 years:** (including children in reception class and school years 1 to 5):[Children's flu vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/) (annual)

**3 years and 4 months:** [Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/) second dose. [4-in-1 pre-school booster](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/4-in-1-pre-school-dtap-ipv-booster/), given as a single jab containing vaccines against: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis) and polio.

**12-13** years (girls only): HPV vaccine, which protects against cervical cancer – two injections given 6-12 months apart

**14 years:** [3-in-1 teenage booster](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/3-in-1-teenage-booster/) , given as a single jab containing vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus and polio. [MenACWY vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/men-acwy-vaccine/), given as a single jab containing vaccines against meningitis A, C, W and Y

**Further information**

[NHS start4life vaccinations and immunisations](https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/baby/vaccinations-and-immunisations-baby/)

[NHS tool to create personalised vaccination planner](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/childhood-vaccines-timeline/)

[What to expect after vaccinations leaflet](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/448789/8584-what-to-expect-after-vaccination-2015-2P-A5-02-web.pdf)

[NICE Guidance increasing immunisation uptake for children and young people under 19 years old.](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph21)

[NHS baby health and developmental reviews](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/baby-reviews/)

[Re SL (Permission to Vaccinate) [2017] EWHC 125](http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30030%3Ashould-courts-order-vaccination-against-parents-wishes&catid=54&Itemid=22)

**Parental consent and decisions on vaccinations:**

The NICE guidance recommends that immunisation records of children should be checked. If they are not up-to-date with their vaccinations, school nursing teams should explain to parents why immunisation is important for children’s health, but there is no recommendation to implement compulsory vaccinations.
In situations where a child is in local authority care, parental consent by those who hold parental responsibility MUST be obtained. A care order in itself does not give the local authority legal powers to vaccinate against the parents’ wishes. Legal advice must be sought where permission has been witheld as it is the court has the jurisdiction to determine the dispute.