

Immunizations for Preterm and Low Birth Weight Babies

All babies benefit from vaccines—even those born early or small.

In fact, premature and low birth weight babies have a lot to gain from getting vaccines on the recommended schedule.

They are more likely to become very ill from otherwise preventable childhood diseases, such as whooping cough, measles, or RSV.

Vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect your child. Health experts advise that babies born early or underweight get the same vaccines at the same age as other children.

One possible exception is the vaccine for hepatitis B. This shot is usually given to newborns shortly after birth.

But preemies and low birth weight babies may not weigh enough to get the vaccine right away. Instead, your baby may get it at 1 month of age or before they leave the hospital.

In the first few years of life, your child will be exposed to many germs. Some of which can cause serious illness.

Talk with your baby's healthcare provider to learn about which vaccines your baby needs when. Together, you can make a plan to keep your child safe and healthy.