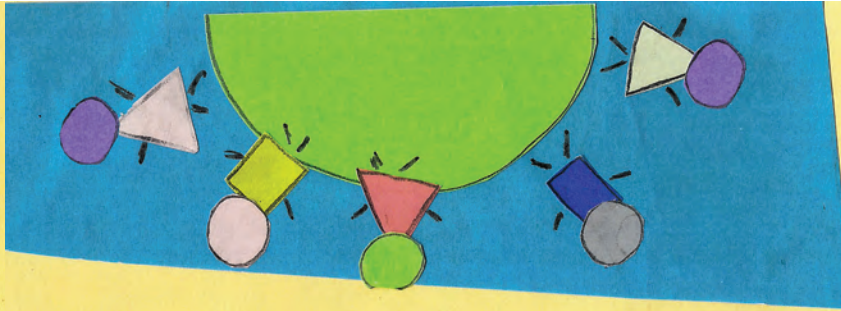


# *A Gift For Lily*

By students at the  
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RHODE ISLAND NURSES INSTITUTE  
**MIDDLE COLLEGE**  
CHARTER SCHOOL



**National Infant  
Immunization Week**

**IMMUNIZATION.  
POWER TO PROTECT.**

*April 20, 2013 - April 27, 2013*



One day Jason went to a doctor's appointment with his mother and his father.

The appointment was called a prenatal visit.



A prenatal visit is a visit that a pregnant woman makes to the doctor. Prenatal visits help women and their babies stay healthy. Jason liked to call prenatal visits the “baby and belly check-ups.”

The family was excited about the arrival of a new baby girl.



“I’m really glad you are all here today,” the doctor said with a smile.

“I need to talk to you about a simple way you can help keep this little girl healthy.”



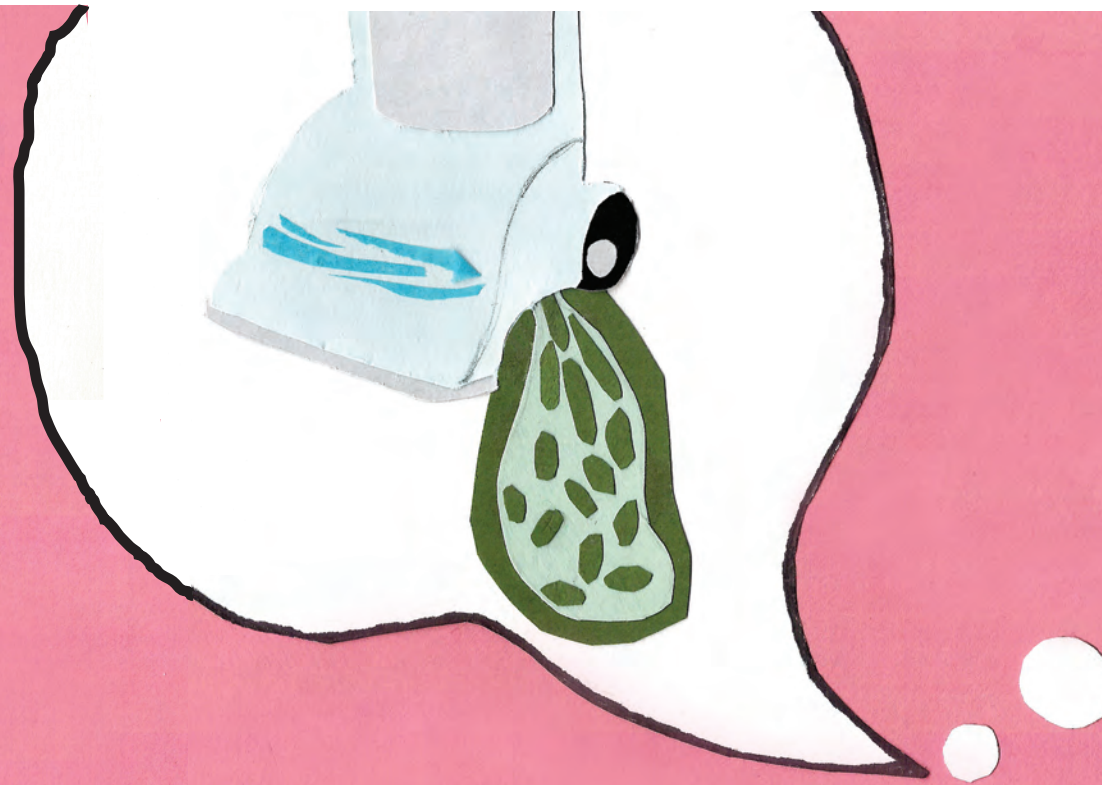


The doctor explained that every member of the family should get pertussis vaccine. This would keep the baby from getting whooping cough. Whooping cough is another name for pertussis.

Jason, his mother, and his father agreed that they all wanted to keep the new baby healthy. Jason was particularly concerned because whooping cough sounded yucky.



**Jason was not quite sure what a vaccine was. He thought in his head, “A vaccine must be like a vacuum that sucks up bad germs.”**



The next day Jason became really excited about the vaccine taking away the bad germs.

He decided to tell his grandma about it.







“Mommy, Daddy, and I are all going to get a vaccine to protect the new baby,” Jason said.

Grandma smiled. “Well, since I’ll be helping with the baby, I should get the vaccine too!”



The following week,  
the family had  
an appointment  
to receive their  
vaccines.

When they arrived,  
they were called  
into the room.  
Jason started to feel  
scared.







The nurse walked into  
the room.

“I can’t believe the whole  
family is here,” she said.

“This is going to be a  
great cocoon!”



With disbelief, Jason suddenly said, “We are not butterflies!”

The nurse laughed and said, “Cocooning is when the whole family is vaccinated against a disease to protect a new baby.”

“Whooping cough can spread very easily from one person to another. Babies are too small to be vaccinated against whooping cough, but if everyone around a baby gets vaccinated then no one will be able to give the disease to the baby. She will be in the middle of a safe cocoon.”



The nurse prepared the DTaP vaccine.

“DTaP is the name of the vaccine that children your age get to be protected against whooping cough,” said the nurse.

Jason was more scared when he realized  
that the vaccine was a shot.

“Whoa! I did not know that the vaccine was a shot!  
I thought it was a vacuum.”

Jason sat quietly for a few seconds.

His mother leaned in and whispered,  
“You are going to be a big brother, and we need to protect  
the baby from the yucky whooping cough.”







Jason was still scared but he gathered his courage and closed his eyes.

The nurse gave him the vaccine. Jason felt a pinch.

The nurse said, “All set, Jason.”



He opened his eyes and said, “That’s it? That didn’t hurt at all.” The nurse gave him a toy duck for his courage.

“Thank you!” he said. “I am going to give this to the baby when she is born.”







After Jason received his vaccination, the nurse said, “The rest of the family is going to get the vaccine that is called Tdap. Tdap is like DTaP, except that it is for grownups.”

One month later, Jason's new baby sister was born . She was named Lily.

He went to the hospital with his grandmother to visit his mom and the baby.





He was careful  
not to forget the  
toy duck he had  
received for his  
courage.







As they crowded around baby Lily, the family felt healthy and secure.

While Jason offered Lily her first present, he said, “Lily you are in a cocoon. We are protecting you.”



