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## Active Learning – Teaching Immunizations

Teresa Bigler MS, PA-C  
*UT Medical Branch, Galveston*

Karen Stephenson MS, PA-C  
*UT Medical Branch, Galveston*

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**Active Learning – Teaching Immunizations**, Teresa Bigler, MS, PA-C. UTMB, Galveston, TX, Karen Stephenson, MS, PA-C. UTMB,

**Introduction or Statement of Problem**

It is often challenging to get students in a large classroom setting actively involved in a classroom discussion. In order to help students appreciate the effects of low immunization rates, a classroom activity was developed using active learning techniques. This allowed the students to identify and appreciate the complexity of the issues concerning childhood immunizations.

**Session Objectives**

At the conclusion of the presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe the complex social issues surrounding childhood immunizations, including adherence to an immunization schedule
- Discuss learner-centered strategies that engage students and teachers in active learning
- Embrace the possibility of allowing student input to direct a class discussion
- Practice active learning techniques during a discussion of immunizations and the benefits of herd immunity
- Evaluate the ability of these techniques to facilitate learning in the classroom setting.

**Session Content**

- Overview of active learning ~10 minutes
  - o Get examples from group as to what they are already doing
- Give some background info on childhood immunizations ~10 minutes
  - o Intro to topic – recommended childhood vaccines and schedule, Healthy People 2010 goals, conflicting data on immunization coverage, etc
- Demonstrate how we have incorporated active learning into a discussion of childhood immunizations
  - o Herd immunity exercise – members will be assigned immunization status (immunized vs non-immunized), “exposed” to an infectious disease, and the consequences of the immunization rates are discussed on personal and societal level ~ 20 minutes
  - o If there is a large group of participants - small groups will be formed for herd immunity exercise and results presented to whole group during wrap-up
- Wrap up of session ~ 10 minutes