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Active Learning – Teaching Immunizations

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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