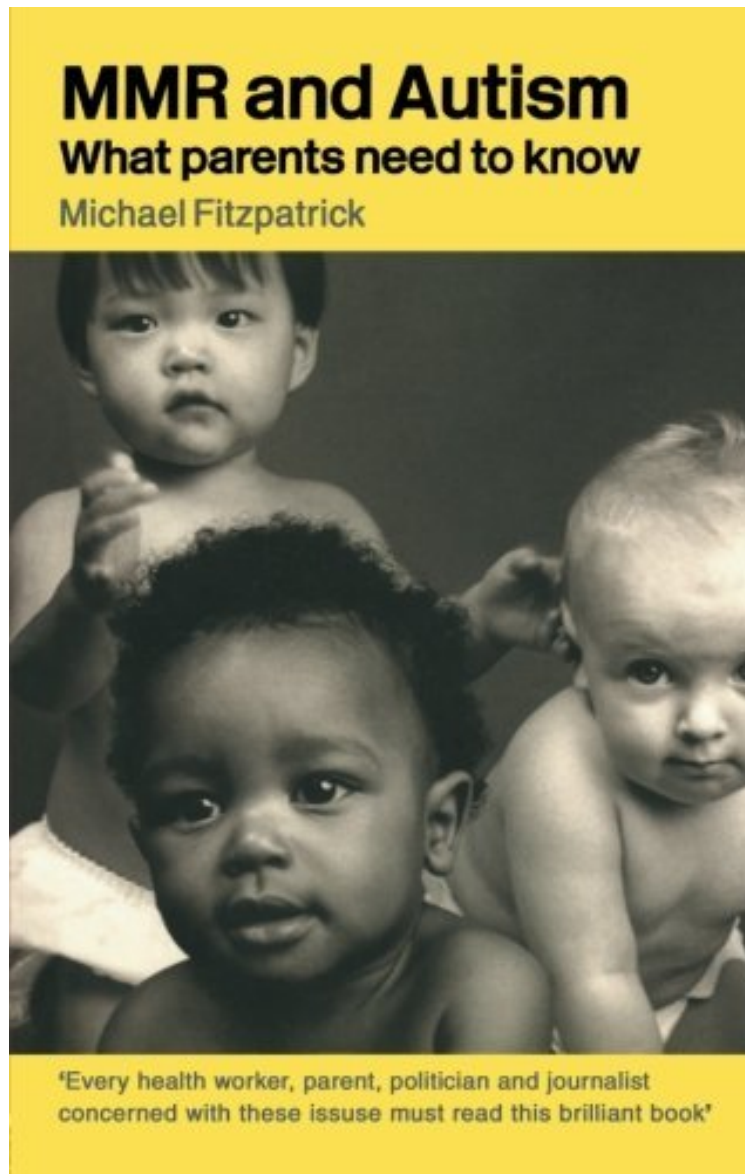


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MMR and Autism: What Parents Need to Know

Michael Fitzpatrick

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#4707647 in Books Mic Fitzpatrick 2004-08-27 2004-06-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .54 x 5.43l, .67 #File Name: 0415321794240 pagesMMR and Autism | File size: 36.Mb

Michael Fitzpatrick : MMR and Autism: What Parents Need to Know before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised MMR and Autism: What Parents Need to Know:

33 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis of scaremongering about a safe vaccineBy William PodmoreThis superb book gives an extremely useful account of the current state of knowledge of autism and its causes. It also shows that parents should allow their children to be immunised with MMR. The author is a London

GP, who has an autistic son James. Dr Fitzpatrick reminds us of the dangers of measles, mumps and rubella. In the ten years before the first measles immunisation was introduced in Britain, 850 children died from measles. Since MMR immunisation was introduced in 1988, there have been only four deaths from measles, and 19 from complications. Japan, with a low uptake of MMR immunisation, has 50/100 measles deaths a year. So the government is right to encourage mass MMR immunisation and to oppose the individual choice of separate vaccines, even though its promotion of 'individual choice' and 'personalised care' undermines all good NHS policies. The government's 'faith-based' politics - evident in Blair's refusal to say whether his son Leo had been immunised - align it against both the medical profession and scientific evidence. The original article that sparked the MMR immunisation scare, by Dr Andrew Wakefield, only raised the possibility of a relationship between MMR immunisation and autism: it put forward no evidence of a causal link, and specified no mechanism of transmission. In the subsequent five years, he has failed to substantiate his claim. Since then, many independent researchers have proven that there is no causal link between MMR and autism, but Dr Wakefield refuses to accept the overwhelming evidence. He even told a US senate committee that the Royal Statistical Society had damned an important study that refuted his hypothesis, although this was not true. He has now moved to a private clinic in Florida run by an evangelical Christian. We still know too little about the neurobiological framework of autism. The one thing we do know is that whatever else causes autism, it is not MMR immunisation. The facts show that MMR vaccine is safe, and that immunisation does not compromise natural immunity.

22 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Keep an open mind
By TrixieKQI found the information in the book useful and CALM!! It would be easy to double check Dr. Fitzpatrick's data if one were so inclined. I have two children on the autism spectrum, and have tried to find the same type of hard evidence supporting the claim that MMR causes autism. I have been unable to do so. Readers should definitely keep open minds whenever they read anything, whether or not one wants to believe the results. When the subject is as important as this one, it is vital to think rationally and calmly. Hysteria is very rarely a good basis for decisions.

10 of 43 people found the following review helpful. HORRIBLE TO SAY THE LEAST.....
By TnVIt is clear that there are those who write books about autism to share information, and others who write books about autism with a totally different agenda. This is not a book worth reading. I couldn't even finish it. It was a cure for my sister's insomnia however! VERY PRO VACCINES with a clear agenda. Thank God I borrowed this book, and didn't have to buy it. In a time where even our children's pediatricians are saying that the "mercury issue" of vaccines relating to autism IS PLAUSIBLE, this author "knows" they're safe. Wow, this one person in the entire universe knows the answer. Give me a break! WORHTLESS!

The MMR controversy has been characterized by two one-sided discourses. In the medical world, the weight of opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of MMR. In the public world, the anti-MMR campaign has a much greater influence, centred on the fears of parents that the triple vaccine may cause autism in their children. Both professionals and parents struggle to cope with the anxieties this creates, but find it difficult to find a balanced account of the issues. In *MMR and Autism* Michael Fitzpatrick, a general practitioner who is also the parent of an autistic child, explains why he believes the anti-MMR campaign is misguided in a way that will reassure parents considering vaccination and also relieve the anxieties of parents of autistic children. At the same time, this informative book provides health care professionals and health studies students with an accessible overview of a contemporary health issue with significant policy implications.

'Michael Fitzpatrick splendidly demolishes the argument that MMR causes autism by careful review of the scientific and other evidence. He also provides an insightful review of autism and its management, together with the role of risk aversion in health scares like the MMR. Every health worker, parent, politician and journalist concerned with these issues must read this brilliant book.' - Brent Taylor, Professor of Community Child Health, Royal Free and University College Medical School
'Fitzpatrick ... offers a profound and wide-ranging account including politics, philosophy and rationality, science and medicine, the media, the medics, history and autism itself from both sides of the fence and indeed the fence itself. Erudite without obscurity, economical without dryness, I found his book a gripping read - and so did my wife, a non medic.' - Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine
'This book is a tour de force. Extensively researched and impeccably argued.' - Health Watch
'Dr Fitzpatrick's book on the MMR affair goes well beyond the affair itself, and casts a searchlight on our society, indeed on our soul.' - Dr Anthony Daniels, Sunday Telegraph
'Michael Fitzpatrick is a general practitioner and also the parent of a child with autism. Fortunately he is also a very good writer and has produced a readable, well-discussed book about the MMR-autism saga. The book is informative, detailed, and accurate.' - International Journal of Epidemiology
About the Author
Michael Fitzpatrick is a general practitioner working in Hackney, London.