

# Vax

by Bridget Ilene Delaney

Two caretakers are sitting at a playground watching their children play. The noises of children playing can be heard in the background as they talk.

**Anti-vaxxer:** Oh, you're child is so cute.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** Thanks, so are yours.  
**Anti-vaxxer:** Yeah, unfortunately the older one is autistic.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** What do you mean "unfortunately?"  
**Anti-vaxxer:** Well, I mean that I wish I had never gotten her her vaccines.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** What? Why?  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** She has autism and those vaccines caused it.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** I wasn't going to say anything. My son has autism, too, but his older brother doesn't.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** And I assume for some reason his older brother didn't get his vaccines.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** That's not the cast at all! They both got their vaccines and they will continue to get them.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Well, my youngest daughter isn't going to get them.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** And you want to leave her susceptible to all those other horrible diseases?  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** I don't want her to have autism.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** You know, there are no scientific studies that prove that vaccines cause autism.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Well, Jenny McCarthy mentioned a book by a scientist that claimed to have proof of vaccines causing autism and I read the book.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** That book isn't scientific.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Well, I also read the study by Dr. Andrew Wakefield.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** He admitted that the study was a fraud and that it's done harm to human health. Plau, only 12 people were studied.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** A study is still a study.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** And it wasn't done correctly.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Well, I don't want my child to be vaccinated because I want her to stay the same.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** I don't understand you. Did you know that for a time, the MMR vaccine wasn't given to children in Japan because of a concern about aseptic meningitis?  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** I hadn't heard of that. I bet there were less cases of autism.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** That's not true. There was no change in the rate. Would you rather have a healthy child with autism rather than one who contracts a deadly disease?  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** We can prevent those diseases other ways.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** How?  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Lots of hand washing, washing clothes, hand sanitizer ... it's all about cleanliness.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** And you let her play at the park?  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Well, she is a kid.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** Exactly, she is a kid. And she'll hopefully grow up.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Hopefully?  
**Pro-Vaccine:** She's a kid. She'll want to explore things and touch things. If she had her vaccines, you won't need to be so concerned.  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** I'll stay concerned.  
**Pro-Vaccine:** Hey, it's your life and your kid, but I think you should read the real studies. Don't just stick to what celebrities say and tell you to read, okay?  
**Anti-Vaxxer:** Thanks for your advice, but I'll do what I want.