

What if everyone did that?



Read or act out the following short sketch. Be ready to discuss Susan and June's attitudes to having their babies immunised against measles, mumps and rubella



Susan and June, both young mothers with babies, are sitting in the park watching their older children play

- June:** We're taking little April for her MMR jab tomorrow, I hope she'll be alright.
- Susan:** You're mad! Why are you even risking it?
- June:** We'd rather run the risk of her having a bad reaction to the jab than getting one of those diseases.
- Susan:** But those old diseases have virtually disappeared now, there's virtually no chance of her getting one of them.
- June:** But the diseases have disappeared *because* people get their children immunised.
- Susan:** Yes, but they *have* disappeared, so now there's no need to worry.
- June:** But if people don't get their babies immunised the diseases will come back.
- Susan:** Yes, but that's *people*, not *you*. There'll always be plenty of goody-goodies who do what the doctors say, so why should you risk April's health when you've no need to?
- June:** Well, we're not risking it very much, the doctor told us that the chances of her being badly affected or affected at all, given our family history, are very low indeed.
- Susan:** Yes, but why take any risk at all? As long as other people are having their babies done, why take the chance? I'm certainly not going to risk my Danny.

Susan thinks that it's stupid to immunise your baby (and so run the small risk of the baby being badly affected by the vaccine) so long as enough other people are getting their babies immunised to make it unlikely that your baby will get the disease.

- 1 Is Susan right?
- 2 If you don't think Susan is right, how might you get Susan to change her mind?