



October 2025
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Advocating for Kids

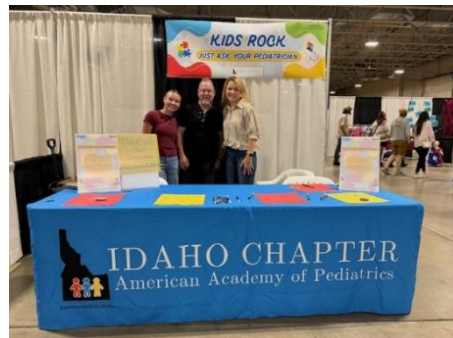
Pediatric Council

In response to sweeping changes in Medicaid policy at both the state and federal levels—including the elimination of Healthy Connections Care Management payments and proposed federal payment restructuring—this proposal recommends setting Medicaid advocacy and payor advocacy as a top 3 priority. The establishment of a Pediatric Council would serve as a strategic advisory and advocacy body under the Idaho AAP to ensure the voices of pediatric providers are included in healthcare reform discussions, policy implementation processes, and payer discussions.

The Idaho Pediatric Council will foster proactive communication between pediatricians and payers, support advocacy efforts, and develop actionable strategies to protect and strengthen access to high-quality, coordinated pediatric care across Idaho. Dr. Brian Birch is developing the Idaho AAP Pediatric Council and would encourage you to participate. Please click this link to join: <https://form.jotform.com/252516813468058>.

Baby & Tot Fair

The Idaho Chapter had a booth at the Idaho Baby & Tot Expo 2025 on September 13 in Boise. Tom Patterson (Idaho AAP President), Lisa Barker (Idaho AAP Immunization Champion), Ellie Barker (volunteer extraordinaire) and Sherry Iverson staffed our booth. Over 12,000 families explored booths featuring baby products to important resources for families. Our theme was “Kids Rock – just ask your pediatrician”. Kids had lots of fun painting rocks while having an opportunity to talk about the fact that pediatricians are the “trusted” expert on safe sleep, infant and toddler safety, vaccines, and much more. If you would like to host a booth at an event in your area, contact Sherry and she can provide you with supplies and pay any costs to attend. We would love to be at events across the state.



Spotlight on a Chapter Member

Idaho AAP PROS Representative

Dr. Andrew Smith feels a strong calling to research in today's climate, where science and evidence are too often questioned or dismissed. He believes that pediatricians have a responsibility not only to care for children in the clinic, but also to strengthen the foundation of knowledge that guides that care. His research interests focus on health literacy and combining real-world clinical experience with practical, practice-based studies that can directly improve how children and families understand and experience healthcare. As a coordinator for the American Academy of Pediatrics' Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) network, he helps bring the voices of community practices into research that is both rigorous and relevant.

We would like to welcome Dr. Smith to the role of the Idaho AAP PROS Representative. Thank you.

Vaccine K Grant

Grant Description

The Idaho chapter is thrilled to be a recipient of a grant from AAP to work on improving our immunization rates. This grant was awarded to 5 states (Hawaii, Alaska, Florida, Texas and Idaho), to help reach the "moveable middle" parent seeking factual information. The primary target is ensuring kindergarteners are fully immunized when beginning school. Currently, our kindergarten rate is 76% and our target is 95%. This grant is providing us valuable expertise in enhancing our social media presence and tailoring a message that reaches Idaho parents.

Our first step was to form an ad hoc committee to help guide our efforts. If you would like to help the chapter on this most important work, please reach out to Sherry Iverson. We have scheduled monthly Zoom meetings over the lunch hour.

The next step was to hire a social media coordinator, Izzy Edwards. Please check out the following article for ways to participate.

We will be distributing toolkits soon on how to best reach parents.

Bringing Idaho AAP Online — and Saying Hello!

Hello, Idaho AAP members! My name is Isabel Edwards, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Social Media Coordinator for our chapter.

I'm a born-and-raised Idahoan with a degree in Public Health, and an emphasis in Health Education and Promotion. One of the things I value most about my education is how it's deepened my understanding of the many barriers people face in achieving health and wellbeing. Social determinants of health impact all of us, and I've learned that effective education starts with accessibility. In this role, I hope to build our social media presence as a way to help improve access to trusted information for families and communities across Idaho. It's a privilege to contribute to the mission of promoting child health and supporting the incredible work pediatricians do across our state.

I've had the pleasure of meeting a few of you already, and I'm looking forward to connecting with many more of you as we continue growing our presence online!

Now, to the details. What exactly am I doing? Currently, I have set up social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram for the Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. To access Instagram, search @idahoaapeditrics. For Facebook, it is exactly our title: Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Near the end of this message, there will be a QR code for easy access. On these platforms, I've created educational posts, reposted content that reflects our mission and values, and set up a Linktree to provide easy access to the articles behind each post. For September, I focused on back-to-school content that connects with pediatric health, along with promoting upcoming events. I've been intentional about keeping main feed posts broad and welcoming—not overly vaccine-focused—to encourage wider engagement. However, our stories continue to reflect our strong support for vaccination through reposted content. Looking forward, for October, I have a few ideas for content, including:

- Mythbuster/Ghostbuster themed post on vaccine misinformation
- Halloween safety/light up the night posts for the week of Halloween
- Flu season safety
- Upcoming events around Idaho
- Safe Sleep (SIDS awareness month)
- National Bullying Prevention Month post

Vaccine K Grant (cont.)

If you have any more ideas for this month, I'd love to hear them at izzoblue10@gmail.com (yes, it sounds like a kid made it — but fun fact: my nickname is Izzo, my middle name is actually Blue, and you guessed it, my favorite number is 10, so there you go!)

How are our accounts doing so far?

We're still in the early stages of building our social media presence, and growth has been steady as we lay the foundation. By the time this newsletter reaches you, our platforms will have been live for one month. In that time, we've gained **35 followers**, reached over **1,200 views**, and received **66 interactions** — including likes, shares, saves, comments, and replies on posts and stories.

While our follower count is still small, it is essential to first establish a trustworthy and consistent online presence. As with any new account, people are more likely to engage once they see meaningful content shared regularly. With continued outreach and consistent posting, I'm confident our following will grow over time. With that being said, however, I could definitely use all of Idaho AAP members' help getting the message out about our growing platform. **Please consider following and sharing our accounts with your networks to help us expand our reach!**

I've created a half-sheet flyer with a QR code (see below) that makes it easy for people to connect with our content. Originally linking directly to our Instagram page, the flyer has now been updated to feature our Linktree, which serves as a central hub for all of our resources.

Additionally, I recently began starting up a Linktree for Idaho AAP that includes direct links to:

- Our Instagram and Facebook pages
- The vaccine landing page
- Articles referenced in our posts

Since Linktree serves as a central hub for all of our resources, I'm planning to update the flyer to feature the Linktree QR code instead of just the Instagram link.

If you'd like a **printable PDF of the updated flyer**, feel free to reach out — I'd be happy to send it your way! You can also find the updated version attached to this newsletter.

Again, I'd love to hear your ideas! Many of you work directly with parents and families every day, and your insight is incredibly valuable in shaping relevant and impactful content. If you have suggestions for topics we could cover, or if you come across content you'd like to see shared or highlighted on our stories, feel free to send it my way.

Lastly, thank you all for welcoming me to your team! I'm grateful to be part of a team doing such meaningful work, and I look forward to supporting your efforts and contributing in any way I can.

P.S. Please follow our socials!

Instagram: [@idahoapdiagnostics](https://www.instagram.com/idahoapdiagnostics)

Facebook: Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Isabel Edwards

Reach me at: izzoblue10@gmail.com



Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events

Sponsored by St. Luke's Children's and Idaho AAP

Oct 8 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (lecture begins at 12:05)

Adolescents and Opioids

Speakers: Christopher Buresh, MD, MPH, DTM&H, FAAP, FACEP-University of WA and
Thomas Agostini, MD-Seattle Children's

Location: St. Luke's Children's Pavilion/St. Luke's Boise campus, Healthy Living Conference Rm/FI1 and
Via TEAMS

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 294 301 120 233 0

Passcode: jW3Hh3tB

Dial in by phone

+1 208-996-1717,,462820661# United States, Boise

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 462 820 661#

Idaho Immunization Summit



2025 IDAHO IMMUNIZATION SUMMIT



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13



8:30 AM - 5:00 PM MT



BASQUE CENTER
601 W GROVE ST, BOISE, ID 83702

Scan below to register:



FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



Dorit Reiss
Professor of Law,
UC, San Francisco



Richard Hughes
JD, MPH, Professor of Law,
George Washington University

[CLICK HERE](#) >>

OR
SCAN HERE



TO REGISTER ONLINE

SPACE IS LIMITED
MUST SIGN-UP AHEAD OF SUMMIT

JOIN US FOR DISCUSSIONS ON:

- >> Current State of Vaccines in Idaho
- >> Public Health Policy
- >> Effective Communication Techniques

& NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES:

- >> Exhibitor Engagement Sessions
- >> Interactive Planning for the Future

FREE TO ATTEND!

BREAKFAST &
LUNCH PROVIDED



Upcoming Educational Opportunities/Meetings/Events (cont.)

EDHI ECHO Program

Now Recruiting – It takes a Village: Provider Partnerships to Support d/Deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH) Children and Their Families – An AAP ECHO Program

Join us in learning how to improve the care and development of young children!

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) invites all clinicians who care for young children, including those in primary care, subspecialists, audiologists, speech language pathologists, and other early interventionists to join **It takes a Village: Provider Partnerships to Support d/Deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH) Children and Their Families ECHO Program**. Participants will learn how to support developmental outcomes of children after their newborn hearing screening, understand how to collaborate with multiple different clinicians and system partners, and engage in peer-to-peer connections with other professionals and lived expertise partners. This ECHO will focus on increasing the knowledge, confidence and capacity of providers to collaborate across the EHDI system to better serve D/HH children and their families.

Each ECHO session will include a live American Sign Language interpreter and other necessary accommodations such as closed captioning to ensure all learners can fully participate.

This ECHO series will be held twice in October 2025—on October 6 at 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET and October 20 at 1 PM CT / 2 PM ET—and will continue with monthly sessions from November 2025 through February 2026, all scheduled for 1 PM CT / 2 PM ET. To learn more, [view the flyer here](#).

[Register Online Here!](#) Questions? Contact AAP ECHO at aapecho@aap.org.

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Resources

Pediatrics on Call



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Book Corner

Thinking Developmentally: Nurturing Wellness in Childhood to Promote Lifelong Health, 2nd Edition by Andrew S. Garner, MD, PhD, FAAP and Robert A. Saul, MD, FACMG, FAAP

This book presents a framework for understanding the impact of toxic stress and both adverse and affiliative childhood experiences on development.