

Questions to Help You Choose a Pediatrician

Choosing a pediatrician for your baby is an important decision. The following list of questions may help you make that decision when meeting with a physician you are considering to be your child's primary care doctor.

Questions About the Practice:

Do you take my insurance? Y / N

How big is the pediatric practice? _____

Does it include physician assistants and nurse practitioners?

If you have older children, can they also be seen at the practice? _____

What are the office hours? _____

Are there evening or weekend hours? _____

Are the office hours convenient for your own schedule?

Will the doctor handle my well-baby visits, or will another doctor or nurse practitioner do so? _____

How are visits for acute illnesses handled? _____

Can I make an appointment on short notice? _____

Will I be able to get a same-day appointment if my child is sick? _____

How are emergency calls handled by your office? _____

Are calls for routine or non-emergency questions encouraged? _____

Which hospitals is the doctor affiliated with? _____

How does the office handle payments, billing and insurance claims? _____

Questions About the Doctor:

How many years has the doctor been in practice? _____

Is the doctor board certified? _____

Do you have children? _____

What do you like best about your job? _____

Will you be available to discuss behavioral developments?

What are your views on:

Breastfeeding/bottle-feeding? _____

Circumcision? _____

Questions About the Doctor (cont):

What are your views on:

Antibiotics? _____

Immunizations? _____

Parenting methods? _____

Childhood obesity? _____

Getting babies to sleep? _____

Alternative medicine? _____

What parenting books or other resources do you
recommend on baby or child care? _____

Questions to Ask Yourself

Did both the physician and the office staff
appear friendly and courteous? Y / N

Did they demonstrate compassion and patience?
Or did you feel rushed in the office, as though
the doctor is eager to move on to the next patient? .. Y / N

Was everything clean? Y / N

Was the waiting room pleasant and kid-friendly? Y / N

Were there toys and books to keep kids occupied? ... Y / N

Was parking readily available? Y / N

How long did you have to wait? Y / N

Did the doctor seem to welcome questions? Y / N

Did you like the doctor's communication style? Y / N

Did you feel comfortable with the doctor? Y / N



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Pediatric medicine provided by Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children