

CHOOSING A PEDIATRICIAN

Choosing a pediatrician is one of the most important first decisions you make as a parent. Look for someone who is not only competent, but who makes you feel comfortable to ask questions and turn to for advice.

- Which hospitals do you typically admit sick children to?
- Are you covered by my insurance?
- What are your views on infant feeding?
- What kind of support do you offer for infant feeding?
- Do you offer space for private breastfeeding? Diaper changing?
- Do you have a separate waiting area for newborn/well care visits?
- What are your recommendations about circumcision?
- What is your philosophy surrounding alternative medical options?
- Would you offer a delayed vaccination schedule?
- How long is the typical waiting time to make an appointment? How long is the typical waiting time in your waiting room? In the exam room?
- What is your system for answering routine questions? May I ask them over the phone? May I talk to you or must I leave a message?
- Will you return my calls or will a nurse?
- How can I reach you in an emergency?
- How much time do you allow for a routine office visit?
- What are your fees for normal office visits? immunizations, procedures? How will I be billed?
- Do you use nurse practitioners in your practice? Can I meet them?
- What are your hours? Who covers for you on weekends and vacations? Where do you recommend I go in an emergency outside your hours?