

Things to Consider When Choosing a Pediatrician

1. Location of office.
2. Cost of office visits.
3. Doctor's education: certified by American Academy of Pediatrics?
4. If member of a group, will you see the same doctor or a different one each time?
5. What emergency and weekend services are available?
6. How large is the practice? How long does it take to get a regular appointment?
7. Get a fee schedule- how much will a newborn exam cost?
8. How does the Pediatrician feel about:
 - A) Erythromycin in the eyes?
 - B) PKU test- will s/he let you wait and bring your baby to the office in a few days?
 - C) Circumcision?
 - D) Vaccines
9. What is the Pediatrician's opinion of breastfeeding (in support, not mere tolerance)?
10. How does s/he feel about supplementary bottles?
11. Does s/he advocate introducing solids to bottle and breastfed babies at the same time?
12. When does s/he recommend solids and what kind first?
13. How does the Pediatrician feel about mothers working?
14. How does s/he handle family concerns (willing to talk on the phone to parent)?
15. Talk with the Pediatrician about timetables and schedules- what is his/her feeling about demand feeding?
16. What about responding to baby's cries? Does s/he believe you can "spoil" an infant, or that the cries signal a true need?
17. What are his/her feelings about letting the baby cry itself to sleep?
18. It is good if the Pediatricians philosophy of child development and care is openly appreciative of the individuality of each child.
19. Does s/he hold vastly different opinion about what size family should be?
20. Is religion important?
21. Do you have preference of sex or age of the doctor?
22. Is a Pediatric nurse practitioner employed?
23. Does the Pediatrician feel good, bad or indifferent about the use of homeopathy?
24. What is his/her stand on immunizations?
25. Are you looking for a doctor who treats the whole person, or one who treats symptoms only?
26. During the interview watch for signs that s/he has a sense of humor and really likes children.
27. After the interview take time to consider:
 - A) Did you feel comfortable?
 - B) Did you feel that the Pediatrician will issue verdicts or offer guidelines?
 - C) Was s/he honest or did s/he tailor answers to fit what you wanted to hear?
 - D) Were you treated as a peer and partner in child care?
 - E) Did s/he think the interview was a waste of time?

INTERVIEW PEDIATRICIANS UNTIL YOU FIND ONE YOU LIKE AND FEEL YOU CAN WORK WITH. SOME CHARGE FOR THIS INTERVIEW AND OTHERS DO NOT.