



## How to Interview a Pediatrician

Choosing a doctor for your newborn is a very important step in preparation for birth. This could be a partnership that you will depend on for years. You may end up taking several children to his/her office after long nights dealing with a sick child. Make sure you are comfortable with this person's personality as well as their qualifications. This decision should be made early, before the need arises. Avoid the stress of not knowing whom the hospital will assign to care for your child or what their background and philosophy are.

A pediatrician will need to be on hand for the initial checkup as well as dealing with any complications. In extreme cases of infants needing surgery to correct some abnormality, you will need to lean on the advice of a trusted individual. A doctor that deals with children only will know the ins and outs of a procedure that may seem very technical and intimidating.

Most pediatricians are used to being interviewed by parents-to-be. You may feel uncomfortable asking these questions, but the doctor should be perfectly willing to explain how they run their practice. Here are a few questions to start your interview. Hopefully, conversation will flow during which all of these will be answered. You are not interviewing a new best friend, but you definitely should feel that this doctor cares about your child.

### For Office Staff

- What is the procedure for emergencies at night or on weekends?
- What are the office hours? Evenings? Saturdays?
- Are there other partners? Will my child be seen by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_?
- What is the average waiting time for appointments?
- Will the doctor come to the phone during office hours? Is there a nurse line?
- Does the office take my insurance?
- What are the standard fees?
- How are payments handled?

### Self Evaluated

- Is the office conveniently located to your home?
- Are there separate waiting areas for sick and well children?
- Is the office neat and clean? Kid friendly?
- Is the staff courteous and patient?

### For Doctor

- Does the doctor have any kids?
- How long has the doctor been in practice?
- Does the doctor have any subspecialties?
- Which hospitals is the doctor affiliated with?
- How often will you see the doctor for well-baby checkups?
- Does the doctor see newborns at the hospital or at the first visit?
- What is his/her philosophy about immunizations?



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What are his/her views on alternative medicines?

What are his/her views on circumcision?

Will he/she be supportive of how I choose to feed my baby?