



Northridge Hospital Medical Center
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Questions To Ask When Choosing A Pediatrician or Family Practice Doctor

*Even the best physician can't give you the right answers,
if you're not asking the right questions.*

When having a baby, there are many decisions to be made. One decision is to select the best pediatrician for your newborn. Take the time to research a couple of pediatricians to make sure that you are comfortable with your choice.

Many parents-to-be have discovered it's a good idea to interview possible baby doctors before the baby is born. Physicians usually welcome these appointments and do not charge for prenatal interviews, but occasionally some do. Check in advance that the doctor accepts your health insurance.

- **Come prepared by writing down things you don't want to forget.**
- **Ask questions. If you don't understand, have the doctor re-explain it to you. Repeat back.**
- **Make sure you have understood all the information your doctor has given you by repeating it back from your notes.**

Questions

1. What are your qualifications?
2. When and where did you complete medical school and residency?
3. Are you a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics or any other specialty organization?
4. How long have you been in practice?
5. What hospitals do you have privileges at?
6. What is your philosophy about child rearing? Do your homework and know your issues before you have this conversation. For example questions on: breastfeeding, schedules, co-sleeping, Ferberize, vaccinations or circumcision.
7. Do you return patient's calls yourself?
8. Do you have a "sick-child" waiting room?
9. If you share a practice, will I always see you?
10. Do you have evening and/or weekend appointments?
11. Is there a 24-hour answering service that can connect me to a doctor or a nurse call line?
12. Who covers for you when you are on vacation?
13. How much time do you schedule for well-baby visits?

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