

Questions to Ask Your Pediatrician

You want to find the right pediatrician that meets all of your family's needs. Use these questions as a guide when you call pediatricians' offices to help you choose the best fit doctor for you and your family.

Questions to Ask Over The Phone:

- Do you take my insurance?
- What hospital are you affiliated with?
- When I call the office with an immediate concern, will there be a nurse or doctor available to speak with me? Will someone call me back? How quickly? How does this work after hours when the office is closed?
- Are there same-day sick appointments available?
- What is your policy on vaccinations?
- Do you have separate waiting rooms for sick and well visits?

**Any of these questions that you don't ask on the phone, move to the in-person list.*

Questions to Ask Yourself When You Hang Up:

- Were they kind and respectful?
- Did I feel listened to?
- Were they happy to speak with me and answer all of my questions?
Did they rush me off the phone?

If I was panicked about something with my baby would this person be patient with me?

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Questions To Ask the Doctor In-Person:

- Tell me about yourself and your philosophy as a pediatrician.
- What do you love most about being a pediatrician?
- What do you like the least about your job?
- Are there other doctors in your practice? Would we be seeing anyone else when we come in?
- Do you come to the hospital for the initial checkup?
- What is your schedule for well checkups?
- What tests (bloodwork, etc.) are you able to perform in the office and what needs to be done somewhere else? Where would we be going?
- What is your stance on vaccinations? (Even if you asked this over the phone, it is a good idea to see how your pediatrician reacts to this question. Regardless of what your viewpoint is around vaccinations, there might be other issues that come up during your child's care and you want to see how they explain things and communicate to parents.)
- What is your philosophy on breast and bottle feeding, parenting techniques, sleep training, alternative medicine, antibiotics, and anything else that might be important to you?
- Is there anything else I should know about you and your practice?
- Based on our initial conversation, do you feel your practice is a good fit for our family?

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Questions To Ask Yourself After Your In-Person Visit:

- First and foremost, what does my gut tell me? (When it comes to your baby, your mama gut is actually a very good place to start.)
- Was the office somewhere I can imagine myself bringing my little one? Was it clean? Were there fun toys in the waiting room?
- How long did it take to get there? Is this somewhere I could easily bring my baby if they were sick?
- How long did we wait in the waiting room?
- How were the support staff and nurses? How did they interact with other babies and kids? Did they seem like a good fit for us?
- Was the doctor present and a good listener? Were they patient? Did they answer questions? Did it feel rushed? Could we clearly understand the doctor?
- Would I trust this doctor to have the very best knowledge, give the very best advice, and clearly communicate things to my partner and me if something was wrong with our baby?