



Choosing a pediatrician for your new baby is very important. The best way to find a pediatrician is to ask trusted friends or family for a list of suggestions. You can get a lot of useful information just by the way the office handles your call when you phone them to make the prenatal appointment. If it was hard to get through to a person, or your call was handled in an un-welcoming manner, you might consider moving on down your list. Similarly, if the office isn't available for pre-natal visits, you should presume that the office is too busy... Below, you'll find some questions that should be used as a jumping off point for discussion when you go to a prenatal visit with the pediatrician.

1. How many doctors are in the group? Do I always get to see my child's pediatrician?
2. Are you available to answer my questions?
3. When is the best time to reach you?
4. How do I reach you with questions? Phone? Email?
5. How are calls handled after-hours?
6. With which hospital(s) are you affiliated?
7. What are your feelings on

- a. Breastfeeding
- b. Circumcision
- c. Parenting techniques (scheduling infants, attachment parenting, etc.)
- d. The use of antibiotics

8. Who sees the baby after (s)he's born? When?

9. How flexible are you with respect to the immediate post-partum care plan?

The most important question is one for you to ask yourself: Did you feel like you could ask the doctor *anything* without being judged or embarrassed? If the answer is "no", or "I'm not sure", try another office.