



Choosing a pediatrician

a myria.com checklist

Based on the Myria.com article *Choosing a pediatrician: Questions to ask* by Elizabeth Pantley, and excerpted from the book *Gentle Baby Care*.

Basic/background information

- The background and experience of the doctor.
- What are office hours? Are there evening or weekend hours?
- How is billing handled?
- What insurance is accepted?
- What are your after-hours and emergency procedures?
- What hospitals is the doctor affiliated with?
- How do you handle questions by telephone?
- Will my doctor personally see us for every scheduled appointment?
- If he is unavailable, who will see us?
- How many doctors share this office?
- Do you have a special waiting room or a separate entrance for sick children?
- Do you have a lactation specialist in the office? If not, can you recommend one?

Interview questions

- Can you explain how we will work together during our baby's first year?
- Will you examine our baby at the hospital (or at our home) directly after birth?
- What is your typical advice to new parents about...
 - Circumcision?
 - Breastfeeding?
 - Bottlefeeding?
 - Sleeping through the night?
 - Immunizations?
- Can we ask you about non-medical issues, like feeding or behavior?
- What do we need to know about our newborn's health and care?

After your interview

- Is the office conveniently located for you?
- How long did you have to wait in the waiting room?
- Did you feel good about the office and staff?
- Did the doctor/primary healthcare provider listen thoughtfully to your questions?
- How willingly and thoroughly did the he or she answer questions?
- What was his or her attitude when answering them?
- Do you feel comfortable with the doctor's specific child-rearing philosophy?
- Did you feel that you could freely ask questions?
- Did the caregiver appear knowledgeable and current with his information and advice?
- Would you feel comfortable bringing your baby to this person for care?
- Would you feel confident having this doctor handle an emergency with your child?