

# How to Choose a Pediatrician

## When to Choose

The process of choosing a pediatrician should begin in the fifth month of pregnancy. You must be prepared with a pediatrician before your delivery and hospitalization.

## Questions to Ask

- Is there a network which you need to work within?
  - Is the office convenient to your home?
  - What hospitals is the pediatrician affiliated with?
  - How large is the group of pediatricians?
  - How long in advance do you have to wait to get an appointment?
  - Does the office have separate well baby and sick baby waiting rooms?
- Cost, hours, billing, insurance issues as needed?
  - What is the pediatrician's opinion about breastfeeding? Circumcision?
  - Who will come to the hospital to check the baby right after birth?
  - What are the arrangements for emergencies or after hours?
  - For what problems would the pediatrician refer the child to a specialist?
  - What are the pediatrician's qualifications (American Board of Pediatrics, American Academy of Pediatrics)?

## Summary

The pediatrician that you choose will have a long-term relationship with your child and your family. The match between this person and yourself is an important consideration in your choice. Interview several pediatricians and take time to evaluate this important decision.



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