

Choosing a Pediatrician

Tangibles – Things such as location of office and or cost of service. Does that office take your insurance company?

Intangibles – (Best judged during a personal interview) things such as attitude, general mannerisms and doctor's expectations of the family.

Some suggested points of consideration and suggested topics of discussion during a prenatal consultation with the pediatrician:

- Physician's education and board certification with the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Office location
- Pediatrician's hospital affiliations
- Group practice versus solo practitioner
- Emergency and weekend services
- Obtain a schedule of fees
- Pediatrician's opinions of infant feeding (breastfeeding or bottle)
- Discuss the risks and benefits of infant circumcision
- Explore your personal feelings considering pediatrician's age and gender
- Does the practice include nurse practitioners
- Pediatrician's sense of humor and manner when working with children
- Pediatrician's feeling regarding early discharge (less the 24 hours after birth)

Careful choice of a pediatrician combined with a good communicative relationship can give you years of comfort and confidence regarding your child's health.

Call the pediatric practices that you would consider scheduling a prenatal consultation with and tell them who you are, when you are expecting and ask the opportunity to meet with them. Is there a fee involved for this service?