

Pediatrician Worksheet

Your pediatrician plays a key role in keeping your child healthy. So how do you choose one who will best meet your needs? Below is a list of questions you should have answered before you decide.

1. Where is the office located?

Is the office nearby so there is less travel time with a sick child?

Are there any diagnostic services easily accessible within the practice, such as X-rays, blood work, etc.

Can the pediatrician refer your child to another specialty doctor within the same practice?

2. What are the doctor's hours?

Does he/she have convenient appointment times? Open early? Open late?

How about same-day appointments for sick visits or sports physicals?

Is there a pediatrician available for emergencies 24/7?

3. What are the doctor's credentials and experience?

When and where did the pediatrician complete medical school and residency program?

Is he/she a member of the American Academy Of Pediatrics or any other specialty organization?

Does the pediatrician have any areas of subspecialty?

At what hospitals does he or she have privileges?

4. Do you and the doctor share the same child-rearing philosophy?

Ask things like:

Do you think children should sleep in their parent's bed?

What is your usual recommendation for babies who cry when they're put to sleep at night?

What is your view about antibiotics or other medication for children who have colds or other ailments?

What is your opinion about infant vaccinations or circumcision?

5. What is the doctor's office environment like?

Is the practice a pleasant, reassuring place for your child to be? Is the atmosphere warm and welcoming?

Does the office care staff relate well to you and your child?

Are the facilities designed with your comfort in mind?