

Selecting a Pediatric Care Provider

You have options when it comes to who will care for your child after they are born:

1. pediatrician
2. pediatric nurse practitioner
3. family practice physician
4. family practice nurse practitioner

It is suggested that you start researching at around 28 weeks.

Basic Criteria for Selection

- 1) Within 15 minute drive of your home (you are going be there several times in the early days after delivery and you will be very tired)
- 2) Compatible philosophy regarding vaccinations
- 3) Compatible philosophy regarding infant feeding
- 4) Respectful of you as a parent
- 5.) Willing to do a Meet and Greet

TIP

When you have narrowed down your choices to 2 or 3 providers you are interested in, call the office and ask for a "meet and greet." If you simply call the office and tell them you are pregnant and looking for a pediatric provider, they will congratulate you and tell you to call back once the baby is born.

You want to MEET your pediatric provider prior to delivery because they play an important role in how you feel about yourself as a parent. You want to feel that they will respect you as a parent and support the informed decisions that you make for your child.

Questions to Ask

1. What is your philosophy about [breastfeeding](#)? For example, do you make referrals to lactation consultants, or do you have a lactation consultant on staff?
2. Do you have separate waiting areas for sick and healthy children?
3. If you are unavailable when I call, will your nurse be available? What is the typical turn-around time for calls?
4. How quickly do you test if I am concerned about developmental delays in my child?