



## Questions to Ask When Interviewing Pediatricians

- What is your medical education, training, and certification?
- Why did you choose pediatrics?
- How long have you been in practice?
- Will you examine my newborn infant in the hospital? How often?
- Where do you stand on the issue of:
  - Breastfeeding/ formula
  - Childcare
  - Sleep
  - Circumcision
  - Feeding on demand
  - Starting solid food
  - Vaccinations
  - Pacifier/ thumb-sucking
- Do you have children?
- Are you a part of a group practice?
- Do you have call-in hours?
- What are your office hours?
- When are you available?
- Is the staff friendly and helpful?
- How long does a typical check-up last?
- Do you separate well-being and sick-baby appointments?
- What is your policy on medication?
  - Do you prefer trying noninvasive aids first?
- How do you handle emergencies?
- Do you make house calls? Under what circumstances?
- What do you charge for office visits, lab tests, and immunizations?
- Will I be charged for telephone consultations?
- Will I be charged for a canceled appointment?
- Will I be billed for a visit or will I have to pay at once?
- Will your office accept a credit card or a check?
- Does your staff do the paperwork or must I?

### Office and Staff

#### Evaluate the office:

- Is the waiting area clean, and does it have clean toys and books?
- Is there a separate waiting area for sick kids?
- Is the staff friendly and helpful?
- Do other patients seem to be waiting for a long time?

## **Insurance**

- Does the practice accept your insurance?
- Does it accept a variety of plans in case your coverage changes?
- Is a payment plan possible if you are not covered?

## **Hospital Affiliation**

- Which hospital is the doctor affiliated with?
- Does your insurance cover services there?
- What specialists are on staff?
- Is there 24-hour visiting for parents?
- If your child has to be admitted, can you stay overnight with him or her?