



Parenting Checklists

Pediatrician Interview

About the Practice

1. Do you take _____ [name of your insurance]?
2. Is this a solo or group practice? solo / group
 - If solo, who covers when the doctor isn't available? _____
 - If group, how often will we see other doctors in the practice? _____
3. How long has this doctor been in practice? _____ years
4. Does the doctor have any subspecialties? _____
5. What are your hours? _____
6. What evening or weekend hours are available? _____
7. Does your practice encourage parents to call for routine/non-emergency questions? yes/no
8. How will we reach you if my child gets sick after hours? _____
9. How can I reach the doctor in an emergency? _____
10. When the doctor's not on call, who covers? _____
11. Which hospitals is the doctor affiliated with? _____
12. Does the doctor see newborns in the hospital or at the first office visit? _____
13. Does the doctor respond to e-mail? yes / no
14. Does the practice have a Web site? yes / no
 - If so, what's the URL? _____
15. How does the practice handle payments, billing, laboratory charges, and insurance claims?

About the Doctor

Most doctors have only about ten minutes to spare for an interview. If the interview takes longer, some physicians will charge a consultation fee.

1. What do you like best about your job? _____
2. Do you have children? _____
3. Will you be available for discussions on my child's behavioral developments (discipline issues, social development, etc.)? yes / no

4. Where are your views on:

- bottle-feeding _____
- circumcision _____
- antibiotics _____
- immunizations _____
- parenting methods _____
- childhood obesity _____
- getting babies to sleep _____
- alternative medicine _____

Questions to Ask Yourself

If the doctor answers all your questions effectively but your intuition tells you that the relationship won't be a good fit, examine why, and trust your instincts.

1. Was everything clean? yes / no
2. Is the waiting room pleasant and kid-friendly? yes / no
3. Were toys and books available to occupy your child? yes / no
4. Were the office staff and nurses helpful and patient? yes / no
5. How long were you kept waiting? _____ minutes
6. Does your child seem to respond well to the doctor? yes / no
7. Does the doctor seem to welcome questions? yes / no
8. Does the doctor seem to know about the latest medical advances? yes / no
9. Is the doctor's style of communication a good fit with yours? yes / no
10. Is the doctor more inclined to give you directions or offer you options? directions / options
11. Did you feel comfortable with the doctor? yes / no
12. Was parking readily available? yes / no