



## **How to choose a Pediatrician**

Selecting a pediatrician is one of the most important decisions you'll make. So be Picky!

Many Patients use the same pediatrician for years, but never feel satisfied with the level of care their children receive. Choose a pediatrician the same way you would hire someone to work for you. Interview several candidates and ask plenty of questions. Make your choice based on whom you feel most comfortable around and who meets your criteria.

Most people with Insurance have to choose a pediatrician based on which one participates in the insurance plan. The Texas Board of Medical Examiners, 800 821 3205, has records of complaints filed against every pediatrician in Texas. Most pediatricians say the best way to find a physician for your child is to ask friends, family, and co-workers.

Make sure you have an overall good feeling of trust and confidence in the pediatrician before making a commitment. If not, go see the next doctor on your list. Some Pediatricians do not come to Baylor, but a Baylor Pediatrician will be happy to see your baby and give you all the information to take to your pediatrician.

The following are factors to consider and questions to ask when searching for a pediatrician:

- Are they certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics?
- Ask about their training and medical background. Do they have subspecialties?
- Check to see if the pediatrician is up to date on current medical issues
- Discuss issues about care that is important to you such as breastfeeding, immunizations, nutrition, sleep patterns, etc. Does the doctor share or will work with these beliefs?
- When the doctor cannot take your call, who will address your concerns? Do they charge a fee for calls? Is someone on call 24 hours a day? What are the procedures in the event of an emergency after hours?
- What are the office hours? Are there any hidden fees (like charges for no showing appointments)?
- What types of insurance does the office accept?
- Is the office staff friendly, helpful, and responsive to your needs?
- Can you call if you are worried about your child's health?
- At what hospitals does the doctor have privileges? Is that near you?
- How many patients does the doctor see in once day? How much time does he/she try to devote to each patient during a visit?