Picking a Pediatrician

- Ideally, a pediatrician should be chosen by 30 weeks of gestation
- Determine the physician’s type of practice. Is it a...
  - Group practice
  - Partnership
  - Pediatric nurse practitioner
  - Solo practitioner
- It can be helpful to use these criteria to decide the right doctor for you:
  - Atmosphere: Is the staff attentive and responsive?
  - Credentials: Is the physician certified by the American Academy of Pediatrics?
  - Décor: Do you feel comfortable waiting with your baby?
  - Emergencies: In an emergency, do patients go straight to the emergency room or to the physician’s office?
  - Financial matters: Is the physician included under your health insurance plan? Will you be billed or expected to pay at the end of visits?
  - Hospital affiliations: Where does the pediatrician admit patients?
  - Office hours: Are their office hours convenient?
  - Office locations: Is their office location easily accessible?
  - Philosophy: Have you ensured that your physician mostly aligns with you on major issues, such as breastfeeding and preventative medicine?
  - Phone queries: Does your physician or a nurse take calls for questions, or is there a time reserved for this?
  - Style: Does the physician’s temperament best serve your needs? For instance, do you feel more comfortable with a laid-back or formal doctor?
  - Waiting time: How long do patients wait? Can your schedule accommodate this?
- Call your doctor after you have chosen the physician that best fits your needs. Many physicians offer a courtesy prenatal interview, and some insurance plans cover a prenatal visit. Call your insurance company to determine the protocols for prenatal and pediatric visits.
- Please refer to a complete list of pediatric practices at the end of this book.