

Picking a Pediatrician

Ideally, a pediatrician should be chosen by 30 weeks of gestation. You can ask your obstetrician for recommendations, call the Steward DoctorFinder at 800-488-5959, or [search online here](#) to find a doctor in your area.

- 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.