

Pediatric and Family Healthcare Provider Interview Questions

You can print a copy of this sheet for each doctor you interview if you'd like to take notes

Interview date and time: _____

Healthcare Provider's name: _____

Name of Practice: _____

Hospital Affiliation: _____

Training/Experience/Qualifications:

- How long have you been in practice and in what settings (hospital, office, clinic)?
- What is your educational background? Are you board-certified?
- Are you certified in basic life support and neonatal resuscitation?
- Do you have former clients or community members that can provide a reference?
- Why did you decide to treat babies and children?
- Do you have a subspecialty?
- Do you have children of your own?
- How do you stay current on research and new guidelines/treatments?
- Do you regularly attend conferences, seminars, and workshops to further your education?
- What experience do you have working with non-traditional families, such as queer or single parents?

General Newborn and Infant Care:

- I'm planning a homebirth or birth center birth. How soon after birth will you want to see my baby?
- What newborn screening tests do you provide for babies born at home or in a birth center?
- I'm planning a hospital birth. Will you meet and examine my newborn at the hospital?
- If my baby needs be transferred to a higher level of care in the case of an unforeseen complication, will you still be involved in their care?
- When and how often will you want to see my baby for care?
- How far in advance to checkups (well baby/child) need to be scheduled?
- Are there separate waiting areas for sick and healthy babies/children?
- On average, how long do patients wait in the waiting room before visits?
- On average, how long do you spend with each patient?

Communication/Availability:

- What is your communication system like? Do you prefer phone, text, or email?
- What is your availability for routine questions? Can I call in with questions about my baby's health?
- What are your office hours? Are there evening and/or weekend hours?
- Do you offer same-day sick appointments?
- How can I reach you in an emergency? What if my baby gets sick when your office is closed?

Lactation and Beyond

- Do you ever take continuing education classes on topics related to lactation?
- What percentage of your patients are breast/chestfed exclusively?
- Do you provide formula samples/literature to expectant parents?
- If a breast/chestfed baby seems to have trouble gaining weight, what would you suggest the parents do?
- What are your views on bottle feeding? Nipple confusion?
- Do you ever recommend putting babies on a feeding schedule?
- What care do you recommend for a baby who appears to be jaundiced?
- Under what conditions do you suggest a lactating parent supplement with formula?
- What do you recommend to lactating parents who are returning to work?
- What is your family's lactation experience?
- When do you recommend a baby start solid foods?
- At what age do you feel a baby should be weaned from the breast/chest? Why?
- Are you supportive of child-led weaning?
- Do you have working relationships with any lactation consultants?
- What are your views on childhood obesity?
- What are your views on vegan/vegetarian/etc. lifestyles?

Sleep, Nurturing, and Discipline

- Are you supportive of families who co-sleep or bed share?
- How old do you think a baby should be when they should "sleep through the night"?
- What is your definition of "sleeping through the night"?

- What would you recommend to a parent who said their baby was waking frequently in the night?
- What are your views on baby wearing? Do you recommend parents put their babies on the floor for any certain amount of time?
- What are your views on discipline? Corporal punishment?
- How do you recommend parents respond to temper tantrums? Night waking from toddlers? Boundary testing?
- Will you discuss my child's general growth and issues like discipline and social development?

Holistic Health Practices

- What are your views on natural/ holistic care for babies and children? (chiropractic, acupuncture, etc.)
- What is your policy on antibiotics? (do you try alternatives before prescribing antibiotics)?
- Do you welcome patients who do not vaccinate, or vaccinate on a delayed/alternative schedule?
- Do you feel there are adverse reactions to vaccines? If so, do you report them to VAERS?
- What percentage of your patients are circumcised?
- Do you provide parents with information about circumcision (the functions of the foreskin, possible problems associated with circumcision, the AAP's stance, etc.)?
- Do you perform circumcisions? Why or why not?
- Do you feel it is helpful to retract (pull back) a boy's foreskin for any reason?
- Have you been educated on the proper care of boys with intact penises?
- Have you ever recommended circumcision for an intact boy later in life?

Professional and Community Relationships:

- Will you be caring for my baby each time, or are there other providers here?
- If you're solo, who covers for you when you're not available? If it's a group, how often will we see you and how often will we see other providers? Will they handle my baby's care as you would? (Do you share the same philosophy and style of practice?)
- What is the training, experience, and qualifications of the other doctors?

Cost:

- What is the cost of a well-baby visit? What is the cost of a sick-baby visit? Are there any possible extra costs that I should know about?
- Do you participate with my health insurance plan? (Note: You should also check with your insurer to confirm coverage.
- Do you accept alternate payment arrangements, such as a sliding scale or extended payment plan?

Questions to Consider After the Interview

These questions might be helpful as you choose a healthcare provider who is the right fit for your family

- Is this healthcare provider's philosophy of baby care and parenting in line with mine?
- Do I feel comfortable in this provider's presence? Do I feel comfortable having this provider care for my baby?
- Can I be honest with this provider? Will this provider be honest with me?
- How long was I kept waiting at the office? How helpful was the support staff at the office?
- Can I trust this provider, and yet feel free to make my own decisions?
- What does my overall intuition say?
- Other notes/observations: