

## **CHOOSING A PHYSICIAN FOR YOUR BABY**

If you have not chosen a pediatrician for your baby, now is the time to consider doing so. A lot of thought should be put into this matter, since your relationship with the physician will be a long one.

When you check in to the hospital for the birth of your baby, you must select a pediatrician to care for the baby while the hospital and for continued care after discharge from the hospital.

The following are some questions to ask yourself when choosing a physician for your baby:

1. What physicians have your obstetrician, friends or family recommended?
2. Which of these physicians are qualified? (you might want to check into qualifications and board certifications if these points are important to you)
3. What are his/her hospital affiliations?
4. Is the office location convenient for you?
5. Are the offices hours convenient for you?
6. Can a sick child get an appointment right away? What provisions are there in the office for a sick child?
7. Does the physician relate well to children and their parents?

After you reach a decision, you need to make an appointment to meet the physician before your baby is born. You will find that the time spend with the physician is worthwhile.

May local communities offer medical services free or at low cost. Some of these services might include well baby clinics, sick baby clinics and immunizations programs. If you are interested in any of these, contact your local Health Department.

**Osceola County Health Department-Kissimmee**  
**Osceola County Health Department-St. Cloud**  
**Orange County Health Department-Orlando**

**407-343-2000**  
**407-943-8699**  
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