



A Grassroots Network of Families and Friends Speaking on Behalf of Children with Special Health Care Needs

Interview Questions to Assist in Choosing a Physician

- Does the doctor have experience working with children with special needs?
- Will the doctor work with you to develop plans of care?
- Does the doctor enjoy working with children who have special needs?
- Does the doctor have time in his or her practice for a child with special needs?
- Is there flexibility in the clinic practice to allow longer appointment times for your child's needs?
- Will the doctor sit down with you to review your child's history and diagnosis thoroughly?
- Will you have access to the doctor when your child is ill?
- How are emergencies handled?
- How are urgent messages handled?
- Can you communicate with a doctor by voice mail or e-mail?
- What is the typical response time frame?
- How will the doctor communicate your child's diagnosis and special needs with partners when your doctor is not on call or is on vacation?
- Can you and the doctor write down protocols for procedures required when your child is ill, which will be available for the doctor's partners in case of emergency room visits?
- How will the doctor feel about you obtaining a second opinion?
- How will the doctor feel about communicating with your child's other doctors (including specialists)?
- How long will this doctor continue working with your child?
- Will the doctor help your child transition to adult care providers at the appropriate time?

Adapted from "Working with Doctors: A Parent's Guide to Navigating the Health System" by Carolyn Allshouse, The Pacer Center, Minneapolis, MN, 2001