Script – Broadcast – Take the proper steps to find a pediatrician for your baby

INTRO

You're pregnant, and it won't be long before you're ready to welcome your new bundle of joy. You've got your check list covered, but you still need to find a pediatrician. So, how do you go about finding the best one for you and your child?

According to Chasity Caperton, MD, a pediatrician at OSF HealthCare, the best time to start looking is three months before your baby is due. That will give you enough time to research your options.

If you're new to the area where you live, start by searching for pediatricians on your insurance company's website or contact the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Most pediatricians' offices make time for expectant parents to visit. Call the office to set up an appointment.

(((SOS)))

Chasity Caperton, MD, pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

"You have to look at the practice as a whole," she says. "Are they taking new patients? Some practices might not be for some reason. Do they take your insurance? That's very important. And check the availability of the doctors. What hours are they open? Are they open on weekends?" (:28)

VO

When meeting with a prospective pediatrician, make sure you are prepared with questions. Other topics you might want to cover are breastfeeding, the use of antibiotics and other medicines and vaccines. Dr. Caperton adds that not every pediatrician is going to be the right fit for your family. And that's OK. That's why it's important to meet and discuss key issues.

(((SOS)))

Chasity Caperton, MD, pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

"The ideal fit would be if you feel comfortable talking to them about everything," says Dr. Caperton. "You're not having to censor your words. They are listening to what you say. They are empathetic to what you're saying. They take you seriously. That, to me, is a good fit." (:20)

TAG

Here are some things to consider as you decide which pediatrician is right for your family.

- Is the pediatrician's office conveniently located? Is it easily accessible by car or public transportation?
- Are the office hours convenient for your schedule? If you are a working parent, you might want evening or weekend hours.
- What is the doctor's policy on taking and returning phone calls? Is there a nurse in the office who can answer routine questions? Do they prefer to use OSF MyChart to communicate?
- Do you sense a sincere interest by the doctor in your child's problems, including any health issues they might have?
- How are visits for acute illnesses handled? For example, can you make an appointment on short notice if your child needs to see the pediatrician because of a cold, sore throat or ear infection?