



Choosing a Private Duty Nursing Agency (For Children)

You will have the chance to meet representatives from different nursing agencies to choose who will provide the nurses for your child's care. Below are examples of questions you can ask them to help you determine if the agency is a good fit.

Questions to help you determine if the nurses are qualified:

- How does your agency select nurses for my child's case?
- How many children does your agency serve who have a tracheostomy and use a ventilator?
- How does your agency train nurses to work with children who have a tracheostomy and use a ventilator?
- Do you perform background and criminal record checks on all individuals who will be coming to my home?
- Do you check to make sure the nurse has a valid nursing license?

Questions to help you understand how the nursing will be provided and how to address problems:

- How many nurses do you anticipate will be assigned to my child's care?
- What do I do/who do I contact when there is a gap in my nursing coverage?
- What do I do/who do I contact when a nurse calls in sick or goes on vacation?
- If my family has two nursing agencies, who will take the lead in developing the schedule?
- When can I expect to receive a schedule for the month? Will the schedule be for a week, month, etc.?
- If there are discrepancies in the schedule, when can I expect to get them fixed?
- If I am uncomfortable with a nurse assigned to my child's care, how can I address it?

Questions to understand how the agency gets nurses settled into your home:

- What are your agency policies on smoking, late arrival and no-shows?
- What do you require your nurses to do before they are independent with my child?
- How does my child's nurse document the care that they performed?

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