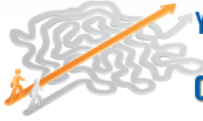


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CHILDCARE 101 - Snag A Safe Sitter

WEB EXCLUSIVE

Forget the "Nanny Cam": follow our tips to find a Mary Poppins of your very own.



By: Jennifer L. Nelson

In a perfect world, the demands of late meetings, company parties, and other obligations wouldn't interfere with family time, and hey, every parent deserves to catch a movie sans dancing penguins and karate-chopping pandas once in awhile. In either case, it's tough to leave your child in a stranger's care, but unfortunately, Aunt Mary may not always be available to babysit.

Whether you need a nanny to stay with Emily and Joey while you're at work, or you just need a sitter for the evening while you're out celebrating your wedding anniversary, we're sure you can find the perfect babysitter with these simple tips.

However, if you do suspect something's not quite right with the person you end up with, please pass on sticking expensive and intrusive "Nanny Cams" in teddy bears, alarm clocks, and picture frames (we think it's unnecessary and just a tad creepy)

—we'll tell you how to do some subtle sleuthing of your own.

Word Of Mouth: Chatting with your friends, neighbors, and fellow parents is an excellent way to find a reliable, trustworthy babysitter or nanny. Be sure it's someone whose judgment you trust, and quiz them on their likes and dislikes regarding their current care provider. Just try not to take it personally if your neighbor has already found their perfect sitter and isn't so quick to share!

Check References: There's no better way to get the scoop on a potential babysitter than to speak with their previous employers. Not only can they confirm facts and offer the candidate's strengths and weaknesses as a care provider, but you can also discuss specific examples of how the sitter handled unexpected situations. Ask a couple of hypothetical questions: What do you think Joanna would do if my three-year-old suddenly came down with a fever, or if my five-year-old refused to go to bed?

Spend Quality Time: With your sitter, that is. You can ask her to come early to see her in action with your kids, or you can simply set aside some time before you leave and/or after you return home to check in with each other. Nobody wants their child plopped in front of the television all day while their nanny surfs the Internet, so make it a priority to keep the lines of communication wide open—be sure to inquire as to exactly how they spent their time together, what the kids ate for lunch, etc.

Lay Down The Law: Don't neglect to set some ground rules and specific expectations for how you'd like your son or daughter to be cared for.

1 2 3

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shallwe

2011-02-27

The above points are very resonable and important, because finding an experienced nanny or babysitter is very hard, especially in present times. In my opinion, the experience is the most important factor. As the text told that, she must know much medical knowledge so that she could cope with children's ...

Nanny

2009-12-11

This is an excellent article. We many times advice families to follow their gut and not their brains, that's usually the safe bet when it comes to your kids. http://www.nannypro.com/blog ...

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A photograph of a woman with her arms raised, lifting a young child into the air. They are both smiling and appear to be outdoors.

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