

Tips for Choosing a Baby-sitter

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Interview all potential baby-sitters.

Ask the baby-sitter's age, if (s)he is a teen. If you have very young children, you will want to find an older teen.

Talk about the baby-sitter's past experience.

What activities is (s)he involved in?

Why is (s)he interested in baby-sitting?

What does (s)he enjoy doing with children?

Has (s)he taken the red cross baby-sitter's course?

Ask for references. Talking to people who have hired this baby-sitter in the past, will give you an idea of the baby-sitter's reliability and trustworthiness.
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Invite the baby-sitter to your house.

This will give you an opportunity to observe the sitter interacting with your children, and to show the baby-sitter around your home.

Discuss your views on discipline and child care. Make sure that the sitter understands appropriate forms of discipline. Discuss the household rules, and tell the baby-sitter how you expect your child to be treated.

Be sure the baby-sitter understands your rules on visitors, bed times, snacks, etc.

Leave important telephone numbers with the baby-sitter (neighbors, nearby relatives, doctor, fire, police) in case an emergency should arise.
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Talk to your children about the baby-sitter.

It is important for your children to be comfortable with the baby-sitter.

Respond to concerns your children may have.

Listen to your children and trust them.



Provided by the
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