



Baby Sitting

Do you love kids? Babysitting may be for you! Ask your family and friends for opportunities to look after their kids and then offer your services to the community. Babysitting is an easy way to raise funds while having fun looking after children!

Among other benefits; babysitting:

- allows you to set your own hourly rates, which can then be negotiated with the families which you are babysitting for.
- gives an opportunity for building friendships, role models and mentoring relationships with younger people.

How to start

Look locally for families who need child minding services. Consider:

- Announcing your services at your church
- Simply ask friends and family if you can babysit for them
- Doing a letter drop around your neighbourhood or easy-to-get-to locations
- Posting in your local or school newspaper, putting ads on notice boards, etc.

There are websites such as Babysits <https://www.babysits.com.au/> which make finding people easy, and vice versa. Also, Facebook Jobs is a good thing to have a look at. In using websites like Facebook for babysitting jobs, keep in mind you should bring a parent along, especially if you don't know the person who you will be babysitting for.

How to prepare

Use the '*Babysitting Form*' provided to organise each babysitting appointment with parents. It lists some questions you should ask the parents before they leave their children in your care. Keep the answers on you, because you cannot afford to forget them in the case of an emergency. If you bring snacks, toys, or games with you, be sure to check with parents before sharing with the children.

Credentials

Having a Working with Children Check or similar that applies to your area might be required if you go through an online source to find babysitting work. If you are over the age of 18 years old, it is a legal requirement to have a Working with Children Check. Look up what is required for you, in your local state.

Knowing you have First Aid training will help parents enjoy themselves while being assured of your capacity to keep their children safe. If you already have First Aid training; great! If not, and you're thinking of babysitting as a long-term fundraiser or self-employment strategy, it's a good idea to book yourself in for some training.



Things to bring

Put together a “*Babysitting Bundle*” full of,

- Easy-to-learn board or card games
- Safe and non-breakable toys
- Some bedtime stories
- Snacks if parents allow them (avoid sugar and caffeine; also drinks, as bedwetting may be an issue)

Do a quality job

Parents may already be nervous or hesitant to leave their children, so don’t turn up late, leave a mess when you’re done, or skip routine tasks, as this gives the parents more reason (and good reason) to not invite you back again.

First impressions are key, so arrive early so you can adjust to the environment and the children, getting a chance to observe their interactions and ask their parents any extra questions. Being early ensures you don’t cut short the time set aside for the parents to enjoy themselves.

You probably want to be asked to babysit for the same family again instead of having to find another one, so make sure you’re worth your money. Pack away toys, do the dishes, and clean any mess you or the children have made.

Report back

It’s important you let the parents know about any accidents, arguments, broken items, or mishaps when they arrive home, rather than them finding out themselves or from their children.

