



Madison County Babysitting Club

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The Business of Babysitting: Creating Repeat Business . . . Or, How to Make Sure You're Asked Back to Sit Again & Again

Last month's newsletter featured an article on methods for advertising your babysitting business. This month we'll shift the focus to keeping the babysitting jobs you find. So, how do you ensure a family will ask you back to babysit again and again? Simply put, **be the very best babysitter you can be!** Let the list of tips below be a refresher course for pursuing that goal:

- Always remember that babysitting is a job. Treat employers with professionalism and respect at all times.
- Be courteous and polite to children. Remember that you are a role model for them. Do not use bad language or behave improperly—always try to teach good habits, not bad.
- Be punctual and dress appropriately for the job. Be neat in appearance, but keep in mind that your very best clothes may not be suitable for play with children.
- Respect your employer's home and property. A good rule to follow when babysitting is to always leave a house in the same (or better) condition that you found it.
- Always remember to report to parents, either when they're away—as in the case of a sick child, accident, or any other situation requiring parents' immediate attention—or upon their return. Make sure you know how to contact parents while they are out, and don't be afraid to call if you're unsure what to do.
- Plan fun, educational, age-appropriate activities for the kids you sit for. (Don't forget your bag-of-tricks! To prevent potential boredom, change your activities often. Remember, you needn't spend much—or any—money on these activities. Check out suggestions below!) Parents will appreciate the fact that their children are learning while you're with them, and kids will want you to return if they have fun with you.
- Clarify behavior expectations with parents in advance. Be sure you know what kids are, and are not, allowed to do—including TV/movies/computer restrictions, where they're allowed to play, what they're allowed to eat, etc.
- Give the children you babysit for your full attention at all times—you're not being paid to entertain yourself. Even when children are asleep, make sure you check on them frequently and that you're able to hear any noises they might make.
- If you would like to babysit for a family again, be sure you let the parents know. Give them your phone number so they're able to contact you for future jobs.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions—it shows parents that you take your job seriously.
- Finally, have FUN! Kids and parents alike will sense if you dislike your job, and neither will be anxious to have you back again.

Do the best job you can and you'll find that not only will kids and parents both want you to babysit again, they'll also recommend you to other parents they know in need of childcare!

References:

www.superbabysitting.com/repeatbabysittingjobs.htm
www.ehow.com/how_2057518_behave-babysitting.html
www.wikihow.com/Make-Sure-People-Ask-You-Back-when-You-Babysit

VIDEO PROJECT UPDATE: At our meeting on August 1, we'll finish filming our video and begin editing!

Put this in your Bag-of-Tricks!*

KOOL-AID—more than just a drink!

Kool-Aid works great for several art projects that the young children you babysit for are sure to love! Mix a packet of Kool-Aid with a small amount of water to make a great water color paint that smells fantastic! And don't worry if you don't have any paintbrushes handy—Q-tips will work just fine! Or use Kool-Aid to add color to a homemade play dough recipe—you'll get vibrant colors, a great smell, and a non-toxic play dough perfect for young children!

*KEEP IN MIND: Kool-Aid may stain clothing, so dress children and yourself appropriately before beginning either of the projects described above.

NEXT MEETING:

Sat, August 1, 2009—9 am-11 am
@ Madison Co Extension Office
(117 N John Wayne— next to bakery)

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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