

What should I consider when choosing a babysitter?

You may be able to find a qualified babysitter through your church, local schools, or your workplace. Once you have some names, check references from other families who have used the sitter. Contact these families and ask how many kids they have and if they ever had any problems with the sitter.

A good babysitter should be certified in First aid and CPR training. They should also be trustworthy, mature, show good judgment and have common sense. They should also be responsible, friendly, neat and organized. A good babysitter must also enjoy being with children. So, go with your heart. Do you trust this person with your child?

The next step is to invite the sitter over to ask questions and observe their interaction with your children. Explain your methods of parenting and discuss what should happen in emergency situations. A competent sitter will be able to answer questions and prove they can handle the job.

After you hire a sitter, have them arrive a half-hour early to go over all emergency issues. Make sure you discuss your rules with the sitter and always leave a number where you can be reached at all times. Tell the babysitter in front of the children that you expect a full report when you get home. Schedule activities for the children and the baby sitter for the evening. Call home to check in and obtain a full report when you return home.