

Interviewing for a Babysitter

Here is a list of questions you might ask a potential babysitter:

- Have you ever worked as a babysitter? Describe your experience. How old were the kids? How long did you babysit for them?
- Have you ever babysat for a child with a health condition?
- Why do you enjoy working with children? What age groups do you most enjoy/least enjoy? Why?

Which age group are you most comfortable with? Do you prefer to work with boys or girls? Why?

- Have you taken any of the babysitter training courses, such as the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course, the Child care and Babysitting Safety (CABS) course, the Safe Sitter® program, or the 4-H Babysitting course? What other type of training do you have in child care?
- Are you certified in CPR/basic first aid?
- Have you ever been in an emergency situation while babysitting? How did you handle it?
- Under what type of situation would you call me? At what point would you call the pediatrician or **911**?
- Do you live nearby? Can you provide your own transportation? Are you familiar with the city/neighborhood?
- Do you have any health restrictions that could affect your ability to babysit?
- Is there an adult or family member nearby in the event of an emergency whom you could contact?
- Do you know how to change a diaper?
- Have you ever administered medicine to a child you were babysitting?
- Are you comfortable being in my home at night or for an extended period?
- Do you know how to prepare a simple meal?
- Do you know how to feed an infant? A toddler? Do you know what to do if a child is choking?
- How do you handle discipline? What will you do if my child will not listen or exhibits bad behavior?
- How comfortable are you with pets? Do you have any fear of pets?
- How do you feel about naps, candy/snacks, TV/computers/videos?
- Are you prompt?
- What sort of activities do you normally do with children my child's age?
- Do you smoke?
- What hours and days of the week are you available to babysit?
- Do you have other obligations that will impact your hours/daily availability?
- What are your rates?
- Do you have a list of references?