

CHOOSING A NANNY OR BABYSITTER:

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FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK

Don't be afraid to ask tough, direct questions. The kind of nanny/babysitter you want to hire will understand your methods.

Choosing a competent, trustworthy nanny or babysitter is critical. The only way to determine someone's true character is to ask tough, direct questions when you interview them. Here are five "must-asks":

1. Why do you want to do this work?

Know the answer(s) you want to hear beforehand

("I love children" as opposed to "For the money"), for example.##

2. What method of discipline did your parents use on you and what's your own philosophy?

In case the answer isn't to your liking, remember that the apple doesn't always fall far from the tree.



Safe Sitter: 800-255-4089, www.safesitter.org

International Nanny Association: 888-878-1477, www.nanny.org

3. For a young babysitter specifically: do you have younger siblings that you took care of? If so, how old were you when you first stayed with them alone and what kind of care did you provide?

Learn as much as you can about the applicant's background and experience as well as her philosophy on things like visits from boyfriends or girlfriends, phone

calls, etc.#

4. Have you ever been in an emergency situation and if so, how did (or would) you respond?

Concrete examples will give you confidence an applicant can handle a crisis. Your Nanny or babysitter should know basic first aid and techniques like the Heimlich maneuver, CPR and fire safety.

Inexpensive#training can always be provided through your local Red Cross, to an otherwise excellent applicant.

5. Have you ever mistreated a child?

Don't worry that this question seems rude or too direct. If a candidate gets insulted—take note! The kind of nanny/babysitter you want to hire will understand your methods.

Your nanny/babysitter should also have basic crime prevention knowledge (like what to do in the event of a home invasion).