

# thinking about hiring a babysitter?

Here  
are some  
handy  
tips

## Employing a babysitter

- There is no legal minimum age of employment in NSW and no minimum age for babysitters. Young people mature at different ages, so it's up to you to decide if someone is suitable
- Even if the babysitter is being employed on a 'trial' basis, **you must pay them for their time**. If you're unsure about a fair rate of pay, ask your neighbours or other parents
- You should not expect a babysitter to do general house cleaning, shopping or other tasks unless you have agreed on this in advance
- If you are employing a babysitter privately, you cannot request a [Working With Children Check](#). If you are employing a babysitter through an agency, they will arrange a check.

## Preparing for a babysitter

- Have a good stock of first aid supplies, either in a bathroom cupboard or a first aid kit
- Leave food and drink out for them so that they can give their full attention to the children rather than having to prepare food
- There may be a lot for the babysitter to remember so help them by leaving written information on emergency contacts, your children's allergies, medication your children may need and any other house rules they may need to refer to. You can use the [Babysitting Checklist](#) to set out these details.

## When the babysitter arrives

- **Ask a new babysitter to come early** so that you can introduce them to your children, show them around your house, discuss the house rules and your expectations of them
- **Show them the exits to your house** in case of an emergency, how to use any alarms or security systems, how to use appliances, where candles or torches are kept if there is a blackout
- **Let them know the house rules:**
  - what food can and cannot be eaten
  - whether they can have visitors
  - rules on leaving the house
  - whether they should answer the telephone
  - rules about television, telephone and internet use
  - children's routines such as meal, bath and bedtime, and
  - how you expect them to deal with misbehaviour by your children.
- **Let the babysitter know what time you expect to return.** If you are running late, contact them to let them know.

## When you return home

- **Ask the babysitter how everything went**, how the children behaved, if anything unusual happened and if there are any telephone messages
- **Pay them the agreed rate**, and
- **Check they have a safe way of getting home** before they leave your house.
- **It's good to ask the babysitter how things went to help you:**
  - know how your child behaves when you're not around
  - know what to expect next time
  - offer advice and assistance, and
  - decide if the babysitter is suitable for you and your children.

**It is better to be upfront to avoid misunderstandings in the future.**

Babysitters may be covered under workers' compensation laws.  
Contact your insurance company or [Workcover](#) for more information.

