

# 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.

