

What you and your babysitter need to know:

You hire a babysitter so your children will be safe while you are away from home. It is important to have someone there that will care for them and keep them safe. We have included some ideas on ensuring your babysitter is well informed during your absence.

TIPS for the parents:

- Introduce the babysitter to your children and pets before the date they are to baby sit.
- Allow for some playtime to get your children use to their new caregiver.
- Give a tour of your home. Explain what areas are for play and what areas are off limits
- Show the babysitter where the emergency numbers are kept. Keep your address next to the phone
- Explain your household fire plan showing meeting areas and escape plans
- Explain any medical information they will need. (i.e. Allergies or any other medication information they may need)
- Explain what TV programs, music or computer games are allowed.
- Establish rules regarding visitors.
- Make sure the babysitter knows when to dial 9-1-1.
- Leave appropriate numbers for the sitter. Also leave a number of someone you know will be home just in case the babysitter can't reach you.
- Call home to check on your children and their babysitter.

Babysitter Responsibilities:

Babysitting is a very important job. It is your responsibility to help keep the children safe while they are in your care.

While babysitting:

- Make sure the parents have left telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, and/or pager numbers where they can be reached.
- Make sure the address is posted near the phones or in a place that is easily accessible.
- Never give medication to a child without first consulting with a parent.
- Don't open doors for strangers. Tell the stranger you are visiting and you will give the parents the message that they were there.
- If you see or hear something suspicious dial 9-1-1. Don't go outside.
- Leave a porch light on.
- Have fun. Play games with the children and keep them occupied while you are there.