

# Lesson 7: The Business of Babysitting



Say: Today we are going to talk about the business of babysitting. Before we get started, we are going to brainstorm some things you might think is important when first meeting the parents or guardian of the child/ren you will be babysitting.

*(Instructor Guide pages 109-114)*



## let's talk

What are some important things to talk about with the parent/guardian the first time you meet?



Say: Allow for students to present their ideas.

Note: Once presented ideas, move on to talking about the specific things they should and should not do regarding a babysitting position in general.

Note: You want students to think about the following topics:

- Expectations/Rules/Routines to be followed
- Payment
- Anything special you may need to know about the child/ren
- Locations of important things in the house

# The “Do’s” of Babysitting

- Be on time
- Keep a Calendar
- Discuss money
- Have a Plan
- Communicate
- ASK Questions!
- You are a role model!



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Say: So let's talk about some of the things you need to remember about babysitting and taking on this role.

First thing, when you become a babysitter for someone, treat it as a job. With any job, you have to be punctual, on time. While being on time is important, showing up is too. Be sure to put the agreed upon babysitting dates and times in your calendar so you don't forget or lose track.

Say: The next thing you need to consider is how much you will be paid for your time. There is no need to be nervous or embarrassed. Time is money and the parents you will be babysitting will become your employer. With the money you will earn from babysitting, have a plan for it; whether it be to save it, get a meal or gas, keep this in mind, especially if you are of driving age; you might need to think about gas money! While on the subject of driving, be sure to discuss and be clear about transportation to the parents.

Say: Once you have discussed all of these important logistics of the babysitting, you need to ask the parents about routines, expectations, the way things are done in their households. If parents ask you to do chores around the house (such as tidy up, clean kitchen, etc.), remember these things come after the safety of the child/ren. You also need to discuss expectations from the parents, in a sense of when should you expect them to return and how to contact them when they are away in addition to any expected visitors, deliveries, or phone calls.

Say: However, you need to always remember you are stepping into a role model for child/ren and need to act accordingly, no using drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products around the child/ren or parents. Don't forget that if you ever not understand something or need clarification, ASK, don't always try to solve or assume the concern at hand yourself.

*(Instructor Guide page 110)*

# The “Don’ts of Babysitting”

- Don’t babysit if you have illness
- Don’t snoop
- Respect their privacy
- Don’t abuse any privileges



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Say: So now that we have talked about all the things you should do, lets talk about some of the things you should not do.

Say: First thing you want to keep in mind, is to not babysit if you are sick, or suspect you have been exposed to someone else sick with contagious things like the cold, the flu, strep, etc. In addition to that, do not invite your friends over while you are babysitting. Remember the parents are trusting and paying YOU to babysit and be around their child/ren, not your friends.

Say: The next thing you need to keep in mind, is to not abuse your privileges. If the parent or guardian says you can help yourself to some snacks, do not eat all the snacks or leave a mess doing so. Maybe get one appropriate snack and drink each for yourself and the child/ren. You also do not need to be on your phone the whole time you are babysitting. I understand being in a home setting can make things more comfortable, but don't forget your responsibilities!

Say: The last thing we want you guys to remember, is to be respectful, to the parents and to the child/ren! This goes in hand with not snooping around the parent or guardian's house and not discussing information about the family or child/ren to others.

Say: So now that you know about the general do's and do not's of babysitting, lets talk about ways you can record pertinent information.

*(Instructor Guide page 110)*

# Recording Information

- Select a place to store family and children information
  - Binder
  - Phone
  - Computer
  - Google Drive



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Say: Before we wrap up for today, we want to make sure you have some useful tools in your toolbox to organize all of this information and any information parents or guardians give you when you meet them.

Say: Consider using different avenues, choosing whatever works best for you. You can consider using a binder or folder with any information, maybe have a folder for each family if working for multiple at one time. You could also store it in your phone under a notes app.

Say: Much like your phone, if you have access to a personal computer, you could consider storing information in a word document of the sorts on there, and maybe store it in a google drive, one drive, or other online storage places that you can access on other computers if needed.

*(Instructor Guide Page 111, in "How will you stay organized?" Section)*



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# REFERENCE

4-H/Army Child & Youth Services Instructor Babysitting Guide, pages 109-114

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