

Finding a Babysitter for Special Needs Child

We understand how difficult it can be to find the right caretaker for your children, especially when they are special needs. But we have some great tips and information to help make this process easier for parents.

There are numerous ways in which parents can go about finding the best person to take care of your child. First, start with the people you already know! Ask family and friends, and then move out into your local community by asking your children's teachers and school, therapists, members of your support group, or any other local organizations such as your church. Sometimes the best resources are the ones you already have! If you find nothing through these resources, then turn to the internet. There is a plethora of websites that offer babysitting, day cares, and in home care givers.



We know the entire process of finding a great babysitter online can seem a bit intimidating or even unrealistic; but here are some tips that will come in handy to you during your search and hiring process!

- Always contact the references of the person you are interested in
- Make sure they have a background check
- Check for other qualifications and certificates such as CPR, therapy, and childcare experience with children with special needs (more than two years)
- Always hold interviews, and make sure to ask these questions:
 - Test them on their autism knowledge
 - Ask about their experiences
 - Ask them how they discipline children
 - Ask if they know how to administer medication

Once you think you've found the right person, have them come to your house a couple times with you around. This is a great way for you to teach them about routines, your child's likes and dislikes, and explain to them what specific behaviors you're trying to improve with your child. This will keep the environment consistent for your child. Once they're hired, be sure to give them an important information sheet, important contact information - such as your address and phone number, your doctor's phone number, the police department contact information, and the fire department closest to you; be sure to also give them a close neighbor or friend in the area, just in case they cannot reach you. Although they have already went through "training" with you, be sure to leave a schedule with them,

including details on what kinds of food to make, what time to give medicine and how much, or anything else you see necessary to help your child be comfortable.

Online Resources to check out!



Archrespite.org – Home-based respite services may be provided through a public health nursing agency, a social service department, a volunteer association, a private nonprofit agency and/or a private homemaker service or home health agency. This website helps you find the closest resources to you that offer these services.

Care.com – Acts as a referral service to find babysitters and care takers. They have a section dedicated entirely to special needs children. In order to find a babysitter to match your child’s needs, you can post a job with what your qualifications are and let the caregiver contact you. You can also narrow down your search by zip code. This helps you pick the perfect babysitter that has the right training to deal with autism, and one that the parent feels comfortable with.

Findababysitter.com – Another great national website that has a database filled with Childcare Professionals. Search by qualifications and location to filter and find the best match for your child. You can also post a detailed job description about what you’re looking for – free of cost!

Greataupair.com – Pairs you with caretakers that are qualified to take care of your children. You can control every aspect of what you want in a sitter. From cooking to occupational therapy they have it all.

Sitter.com – Acts as a referral service to locate caretakers and daycare centers in your area. When selecting a caretaker there are refinements you adjust to find the one best for you. It allows you to search for candidates with childcare training and other childcare needs such as special needs.

Sittercity.com – Another website similar to Care.com, that allows parents to make an account and search for a qualified babysitter, or post a job for local babysitters who may be applicable for the job.