



Sitters' Tips and Best Practices

Here are some of the things your fellow sitters are doing to make their sitting appointments successful. We wanted to share them so that you can benefit from their tips and best practices.

Tips for Making the BEST Impression!

- Upon arrival, introduce yourself to the parents and the children
- Present your photo I.D.
- Wash your hands before interacting with the children
- Show/tell the parents and children about what activities you brought
- Listen attentively and take notes about parental instructions
- Wow the parents and kids with enthusiasm and energy
- Take photos of the kids during the appointment with your phone (ideally of them being happy and having fun, napping on schedule, etc.) and text the photos to the parents during the appointment

Best Practices

- Contact parents well in advance and discuss the kids' interests and parental expectations
- Have your charged mobile phone with you at all times during the appointment
- Have the room or unit key on your person at all times during the appointment
- Have the signed Medical & Activity Authorization form on you if you take the kids out of the unit (and of course, only leave the unit with written parental permission)
- Be yourself, but be professional! Remember that the most innocent comments can be misconstrued by clients, especially when those comments are "filtered" through kids. Whether at group jobs or during private family appointments, we all have to be thoughtful about the interactions we have with kids and parents. In particular, playful or teasing comments made to the kids can be reported back and heard by Mom and Dad as something very different than what was actually said or intended. And, whether it's reasonable or not, *parents always believe their kids!* Avoid comments, topics and jokes that could cause unintended offense or concern.

If you have a tip or best practice that works for you, please tell us about it!