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Sara Underwood Reporting

New Web Site Helps You Find a Good Babysitter

(CBS4) BOSTON – It's a dream come true for busy parents. A new Web site to help you find a good babysitter. It's called Sittercity.com and promises to fulfill your child care needs.

Missy Hem works part-time and has unusual babysitting needs for her two daughters.

"I need two afternoons of care which is often very hard to find," she says.

Hem was desperate until she heard about Sittercity.com and decided to try it.

"I had 25 candidates respond within two or three days," she said.

"It is basically an online dating service for parents and babysitters," said Genevieve Thiers, who is the founder of Sittercity.com.

Sittercity.com is the brainchild of a Boston College graduate. Genevieve Thiers worked her way through school babysitting.

"I would get back to my dorm room and I would see my machine blinking and it would be three other parents who heard about me from the first parents," said Thiers.

Recognizing a real need, Thiers hit Boston-area colleges, posting flyers to recruit babysitters.

"We go into a city and we get 1,000-3,000 babysitters per city," she said. "They go online and fill out a detailed profile with lots of information about themselves on our site. Then parents can come to the site and post a job or they can do a detailed search."

Christine Depari is Missy's latest Sittercity sitter. She's a graduate student and former teacher. Her available hours and Missy's needs matched up perfectly.

"The parents and children I have met have been great," said Depari.

Some parents may feel it's risky to find a babysitter over the Internet, but Hem believes it's not necessary to pay a nanny agency a huge finder's fee.

“It’s a parent who needs to screen, not an agency,” she said. “What they’re doing is providing a pool of candidates and Sittercity does that for a very, very low cost.”

That cost is \$39.99 to join and \$10 a month to a maintain membership.