

# Newsweek

October 24, 2005

By Christina Gillham

## She's Certifiable

Though babysitting has long been a moneymaking option for teenagers, getting work isn't always easy. That may be why more sitters are turning to certification classes. "It's a real trend," says Julie Hunt, creator of the instruction video "Babysitting 101: Your Complete Guide to becoming the Best Babysitter"

([smartkids101.com/babysitting101.html](http://smartkids101.com/babysitting101.html)). The site [babysittingclass.com](http://babysittingclass.com) (\$17.50 per class) covers child-care safety, age-appropriate games and techniques for baby-sitting kids who have special needs. It also teaches sitters how to market themselves, prepare for an interview and determine how much money to charge. For other options, check with the YMCA ([ymca.net](http://ymca.net)) or Red Cross ([redcross.org](http://redcross.org)), which offers baby-sitting classes and certification at some branches. Parents can check [sittercity.com](http://sittercity.com) to find sitters who are certified.