

November 11, 2005

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Web site a resource to find baby sitters

The holiday season is about to kick off and parents who would love a real break from the kids are scrambling to find quality child care at reasonable rates. But what a reasonable baby-sitting rates these days?

I was shocked to hear what parents pay their sitters. I recently met a woman with two young ones who, unsure of the going rate for sitters, said she was planning to pay her 20-something baby sitter \$10 an hour while she and her husband relived some memories at the recent Bon Jovi concert.

I was aghast, but after some research, I found she was right on the mark. So many variables affect how much watching your little angel is worth: age of the sitter, prior experience, CPR or first-aid certification and the expectations parents put on a sitter.

A Web poll on www.sittercity.com showed 91 percent of respondents would pay more per hour if their sitter was certified in CPR or first aid.

Andy Harding, 12, of West Des Moines didn't take a baby-sitting class, but he did learn CPR in Boy Scouts and baby-sitting jobs kept him busy over the summer.