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# Special Assignment

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Story Created: Dec 12, 2008

Story Updated: Dec 12, 2008

## Babysitter Network

### Courtney Gerrish

MILWAUKEE - It's a parent's dream come true. One stop shopping for babysitters. Now technology is changing the way parents find someone to watch the kids.

A click of the mouse will tell parents everything they need to now, before they leave the kids with a stranger.

It's rare to find Lailah Hill and her babysitter sitting down. Lailah is always full of ideas. Marquette student Lauren Schultz met the Hill family on [www.sittercity.com](http://www.sittercity.com). "When I came up to school, and I had a car I decided to figure out how to babysit up here too," said Schultz.

She's part of the site's database of babysitters. Lailah's mom, Yohlunda, finds most of her babysitters on Sittercity, "you're kind of taking a little bit of a leap, but you have a nice way to be able to check and make sure it's a good match."

That's because Sittercity has done the checking for you. The site has a four step screening process and recommends that parents, children and sitter all meet to make sure it's a match.

The site includes things like reviews from other parents, a sitter's experience, even background checks.

Melissa Underwood, with Sittercity, tells us, "We do give them as much information as we possibly can about the caregiver and give them the ability to get in touch with them and be in contact with them so they can have that peace of mind."

Another comfort for Lailah's parents, finding a sitter that knows how to handle their daughter's allergies. Yohlunda says, "It's nice to know if they're CPR certified, and if they're able to deal with illnesses, chronic illnesses."

A first meeting worked for Lauren and the Hill's, and it's been a great match ever since.

There are more than two thousand babysitters and nannies in Milwaukee posted on [www.sittercity.com](http://www.sittercity.com). The site also offers pet sitting, home care, tutors and senior care.

Fees for using the site vary. It's \$40 for the first month and \$7.99 per month if you sign up for an annual membership.

The site has more than a million users.

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