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Importance Of Finding Qualified Baby Sitters

COLUMBUS, Ohio - For parents who leave their child alone with a baby sitter, it is vital for that person to know what to do in case of an emergency.

The Henry children know that there is fun in store for them when baby sitter Kirby McKenna is around, 10TV's Tracy Townsend reported.

"I'm not one of those baby sitters who likes to sit on the couch, I play with them," McKenna said.

McKenna, 15, received baby-sitting training through the American Red Cross. Instructor Alissia Jay said that a baby sitter's maturity level, not necessarily their age, is critical.

"You check the scene, you call for help and you care for the infant -- whether it's an infant or child -- while help is on the way in an emergency situation," Jay said.

At SitterCity.com, parents can search their zip code for a qualified sitter. Searches can be based on a sitter's availability, their special qualifications or whether they've had a background check, Townsend reported.

Families that find good help in caring for their children know it is a time investment, but that the payoff is priceless, Townsend reported.

"I do not call home when they're with Kirby, I do not worry one bit because I know they're in such good hands," said mother Lori Henry.

More Information:

- American Red Cross Baby sitter's Training
614-251-1444
<http://columbus.redcross.org>
\$35

- Riverside Hospital Baby sitter's Training
614-4-HEALTH to register
\$35
- Sitter City
You can find babysitters at www.sittercity.com; the site requires an enrollment fee, but allows you to take a tour and find out how many sitters are in your particular ZIP code.