

## How to find the right babysitter for your child

### JUNO CONNECTION



CHARMAINE TEODORO

**A** BABYSITTER is your child's ultimate guardian when you're not around. S/he is the one who'll be looking after your son or daughter and responsible for their well-being for hours at a time. Your babysitter practically acts as a second parent to your most precious loved one. It is very important, therefore, to lay down requirements you'll need from a babysitter before you consider him/her as the person responsible for your child's safety, security and happiness when you're not there.

#### Get to know your candidate's character well

Skills are important and very significant when hiring a childcare provider, but character should have greater weight. It's your job to peek through this and have a concrete understanding of what type of person you'll be dealing with. It doesn't mean you'll need to have a 100-item questionnaire or a psychoanalysis worksheet when interviewing your prospective babysitter, but you need to be able to ask appropriately and inquisitively about his/her background and the reason, beyond money, for her application. You should also get a good grasp of his/her attitude. When interviewing a candidate, take note of how s/he talks, and see how s/he carries the conversation. Listen to their tone and observe their body language keenly. This, alone, will tell you a lot about the person. Remember that your child will be exposed to this type of attitude and behavior for multiple hours/day, several days/week, and it could rub-off on your kid. Get to know candidates on a personal level and gather information about their background through character references. It's obvious that their attitude towards work affects the way they treat your child.

#### Evaluate skills and see if they fit well with you and your child's needs

After learning about their character, it's time to check if the skills your babysitter has is what you

need. Seek information from a previous employer if they have one. Check if they've had any professional experience as a babysitter and if so, for how long? Ask what skills they have that makes them a good babysitter. If you're interviewing someone with zero experience, see if they've had any experience taking care of kids even in a voluntary setting (e.g., church, school outreach, relative, etc.). Regardless of their background, age or skill-level, your candidate should be well aware of what a babysitter does. S/he must know or be willing to learn how to change diapers, clean up after a child's mess, prepare food and provide activities to keep the child occupied amongst other things. Their schedule should also fit with when you need them.

Another skill-set you should look for in a babysitter is their ability to respond in emergency situations. Basic first aid treatment should be in their pool of knowledge as well as proper procedures when responding to an emergency situation. You definitely would want a babysitter who can be calm during emergencies and can immediately apply basic treatment when your son or daughter is bruised or gets a cut. Let your candidate also tell you how they would stop your kid from crying when they look for Mom or Dad. Ask about what type of activities they would provide during the time they'll spend with your child.

The skills of your potential babysitter and its appropriateness for your needs are an important way to gauge if the person you're talking to can make your short-list.

#### Find out if your candidate loves to take care of children

There's no better childcare provider than someone who not only takes his or her job seriously, but also values it and enjoys the time s/he spends with your child. You can hear a person's passion in their speech and see it in their eyes. When you see a growing excitement in your candidate when discussing how she would take care of your child and the activities to be given during that period of caring, you found a very good prospect! A foremost trait you would want to find in your babysitter is passion to take care of children. There's no better quality you can ask for in a babysitter. If you can find this in the people you're trying to interview or short list for the babysitting position you're offering, then you practically have a winner. The

impact a loving, sincere and honest childcare provider can contribute to your son or daughter's well-being is immeasurably great.

#### For additional security, do a background check

Though it's not crucial, it helps to do some basic background checks on a potential childcare provider. Contacting references, both professional and character, would allow you to find out what your candidate does best and their performances in their previous jobs. Also seek opinion from friends or family regarding the person you're hiring by sharing with them selected information on their skills, professional background and your initial perception upon meeting them. If the candidate is a referral from your social networks, then it would be good to seek their comments too.

#### When making the hiring decision

Do not be too hasty when making the decision, but don't prolong it to the point that your candidates are already finding other employers. Take time to think about the person you've just interviewed and listen to your intuition. Reflect on the interviews and what s/he has said, the body language, and go over the resume or credentials of your potential providers. When you make your decision, provide a trial period and drop in during babysitting time unannounced so you'll see exactly how the provider is rendering his/her service.

It's not easy to find the right babysitter so when you discover one, consider it a treasure found that you should keep. Approaching babysitting hiring in a pragmatic but strategic way is helpful in ensuring that you will get the right person for the job. In doing so, you have the security that you hired a responsible, caring and genuinely sincere person who will look after your children.

**Charmaine Teodoro is the Senior Vice President of JUNO Healthcare Staffing, a group of companies that recruits RNs, LPNs, CNAs and allied healthcare professionals and deploys them to healthcare facilities on a full-time, part-time, per diem or travel assignment. It also sponsors foreign-trained RNs for immigration to the US. JUNO's offices in California are located in Los Angeles and San Diego.**  
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### INSURANCE 101



MELODY AVECILLA

**W**HEN you think about earthquakes, you probably associate this disaster mainly with California. Truth is, an earthquake can happen anywhere in the United States and Canada. In fact, according to the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), nine states experienced a major earthquake - 7.0 or greater - in the last 200 years: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Washington. Another fact: The central Mississippi Valley region has more earthquakes than any other part of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains.

Which means, regardless of where you live, you may want to familiarize yourself with ways to stay safe if an earthquake strikes.

The best protection during an earthquake is to get under heavy furniture, such as a desk, table or bench. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits

## Earthquakes - not just in California

and alongside exterior walls. Fatalities often happen when people run outside of buildings and get hit by falling debris from collapsing walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass and falling objects.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has information to help you prepare for all types of disasters, including earthquakes. Here are a few safety tips:

Check your home for hazards - make sure shelves are fastened securely to walls; large, heavy objects and breakable items are stored on lower shelves; pictures and mirrors are hung away from areas where people sit and sleep; check for defective electrical wiring and gas leaks as these pose potential fire hazards

Identify safe places in each room - under sturdy furniture; against an inside wall; away from where glass could shatter or heavy furniture might

topple. Locate safe places outside - open spaces away from falling debris and electrical lines. Have disaster supplies on hand - flashlights; portable battery-operated radio; batteries; first aid kit and essential medicines; emergency food and water; hand-operated can opener; cash and credit cards; sturdy shoes

Develop an emergency communication plan - in case family members get separated, have a designated place to meet; ask an out-of-state relative to be your family contact and make sure everyone has the phone number

A little advance planning can help you and your family weather disasters of any kind more safely. And remember ... earthquake damage is generally not covered by your homeowners insurance. So include your insurance agent in your planning.

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If you suspect a scam, call the NICB hotline at 1-800-TEL-NICB.

For information about auto insurance and insurance fraud, contact your insurance agent.  
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## Ang EB2 category

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vanced degree professional ay kailangan may job offer mula sa US employer para sa isang posisyon na ang minimum requirement ay Master's degree o Master's degree equivalent. Ang US employer ay kailangan pa ring kumuha na PERM Labor Certification mula sa Department of Labor para sa EB2 advanced degree professional upang siguraduhin na may kakulangan ng US workers para sa posisyon na ito.

Dalawa ang mahalagang kailangan upang maaprubahan ang EB2 advanced degree petition. Una, kailangan patunayan na ang trabahong gagampanan ng dayuhan ay hindi magagawa ng isang empleyadong walang Master's degree o Master's degree equivalent. Pangalawa, kailan-

gang ipakita ng dayuhan na siya ay qualified sa posisyon sapagkat siya ay may Master's degree o Master's degree equivalent. Ang dalawang isyu na ito ay independent na mga isyu. Kapag ang posisyon ay hindi kinakailangan ng Master's degree o Master's degree equivalent, ang immigrant petition ay hindi maaaprubahan kahit ang dayuhan ay may Master's degree o Master's degree equivalent. Sa ganito ring paraan, kahit ang posisyon ay pang Master's degree o Master's degree equivalent, kapag ang dayuhan ay walang Master's degree o Master's degree equivalent, ang immigrant petition ay hindi rin maaaprubahan.

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Si Attorney Rhea V. Samson ay abogado dito sa California at sa Pilipinas. Nagtapos

siya ng kanyang Juris Doctor Degree sa Ateneo de Manila University Law School. Siya ay nagturo sa Ateneo De Manila University ng Essentials of Philippine Business Law, Obligations and Contracts, Corporation Law, Partnership Law at Labor Laws and Social Legislation. Siya rin ay nagkatha ng librong, "Working With Labor Laws, A Comprehensive Guide on Conditions of Employment, Employee Benefits Under Special Laws, Termination and Retirement" na inilathala ng Ateneo de Manila University Press at University of Hawaii Press. Itong libro niya ay kasalukuyang textbook sa kursong Labor Laws and Social Legislation ng Ateneo de Manila University. Siya ay humuhugot ng inspirasyon mula sa kanyang mga magulang na sina Engr. Roger Samson at Gng. Bella Valle Samson, na tubong Batangas. Si Attorney Samson ay mahilig mag-kaape at manood ng The Filipino Channel.

Nagbibigay si Attorney Samson ng free initial consultation sa kanyang opisina, Samson Law Corporation, 3550 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1765, Los Angeles, CA 90010; telephone no: (213)637-5630; fax no: (213)637-5637; email address: samson@samsonlawcorp.com; website: www.samsonlawcorp.com.  
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## Setting children for financial success

In a consumer-driven culture like ours, money management has become one, if not the greatest, ills of our society. I've seen people from all walks of life - either they're making \$30,000 or \$300,000 annually - crumble from debt because of poor money management and planning.

Here are ways to begin teaching kids the fine art of money management:

Consider giving your child a regular allowance. A weekly allowance is a good way to start your kids on the path to fiscal fitness. Allowing them to start handling their own money can empower them with a sense of responsibility.

Set a good example. Kids learn more than you realize by watching you, so the habits and ideals you embody will be passed on to them, whether you want to or not. So make sure you practice what you preach by not frittering money on frivolous, useless items (unless you get use or enjoyment out of them, in which case they're not frivolous). Or better yet: take your child with you when you make a deposit at the bank or withdraw money so they become accus-

tomed to the idea of saving and spending money.

Set goals for your children. If your child wants a new toy or video game, don't be afraid to say no. If you decide to make that purchase, figure out how he or she can earn the toy by doing a chore or helping clean up his or her room. This can help the idea that work produces results.

Turning 12, my daughter now manages her money from weekly allowances and helping babysit (her little sister) and ensures that at the start of each month, either mom or dad deposits at least half to her savings account for college. She gets to write on her own deposit slip, too.

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Evangeline can be reached at her marketing location at the Ground Floor of Eagle Rock Plaza (in front of Jollibee), 2700 Colorado Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90041 or at her business address at 655 N. Central Ave., 17th Flr., Glendale, CA 91203, phone number (323) 356-3803 or (323) 254-6787.

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## How Cosmetic Dentistry Works

made porcelain wafers that the dentist places over the fronts of the teeth to enhance their appearance and also to repair damage. Veneers can dramatically change a person's smile and help improve their self-confidence. In the 1920's and 30's, actors, actresses and other performers would often go to the extreme measure of having their teeth extracted and dentures (false teeth) made to improve their smile. Fortunately, this radical procedure has given way to veneers, a far more conservative approach. Veneers are what give many Hollywood movie stars that dazzling smile we see on the silver screen. Veneers can be used to improve a wide variety of cosmetic dental problems. They can whiten stained or discolored teeth, close gaps between teeth, "correct" a crooked smile without the need for braces, repair chips and imperfections, and create a more attractive or youthful looking smile. The procedure usually involves removing only a thin amount of the outermost layer of the tooth, called the enamel. The dentist

then takes molds (impressions) of the mouth. Temporary veneers are then placed for the patient to wear while the permanent veneers are being made. The procedure usually takes between one and a half and two hours. Next, the laboratory carefully crafts the porcelain into veneers. In about two weeks, the veneers are ready for the dentist to fasten to the fronts of the teeth. This process improves the teeth's appearance and strength. You can have the smile of the stars without being a star yourself and minus the celebrity hustle.

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The following information is provided as a general guideline. It is NOT intended in place of professional care. Since every pregnancy may vary, consult your physician or dentist for advice on your particular situation.  
(Advertising Supplement)

### BRIDGING FINANCIAL GAPS



EVANGELINE A. GIRON

**M**Y DAUGHTER was about 7 when she asked me to buy her something and I told her that we needed to first save for it. She responded saying, "Why don't you use your ATM card, mom?"

Various studies show that our educational system doesn't give much emphasis on teaching our children financial responsibility, thus, creating a culture of debt-burdened population. Where everything is easily procured and spent, it is paramount to our children's future success to teach them financial responsibility from a very young age.

Teaching financial responsibility to children will give them the financial foundation they need to act sensibly as adults. Studies show that people who learn financial responsibility at a young age also have less debt and more savings when they become adults.

### CREATIVE SMILES



DR. NELLY LYN MONTILLA

**P**EOPLE seek cosmetic dentistry for a variety of reasons. Some people simply want to look younger, and cosmetic dentistry is like a dental facelift that can quickly "reverse" the natural aging process of the teeth. Others, the majority, have had unattractive teeth their whole lives and have always felt self-conscious because of them. They will rarely smile, which can often hide a warm side of their personality. Modern dentistry offers a wide variety of treatment options for people seeking to enhance their smile. The options range from porcelain veneers to braces! In many cases, a combination of these techniques is required to deliver the best results.

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LARRY YANG is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center with a master's degree in Law and practices before California State Courts, United States District Courts, the California Appeals for the 9th Circuit and U.S. Bankruptcy Courts.

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