

2023-24 | UM Family Resources



UM Babysitter Directory

A Resource Guide for Babysitters

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Overview

Welcome to the UM Babysitter Directory Guide! This is a go-to reference for babysitters seeking a successful and harmonious childminding experience.

The UM Babysitter Directory is a digital platform developed exclusively with the University community in mind and its goal is to connect parents seeking babysitting services with fellow students seeking casual employment. The directory serves as the centralized hub for the babysitter information that parents can access and arrange to receive childcare. It will consist of babysitter profiles and contain information such as relevant training, certifications, previous work experience, preferred locations, and more. This is open to all faculty members, support staff, and students.

This guide is designed to equip you with information, tips, and resources to help you get started on your journey.

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection Agency has recommended that babysitters take the [Online Training: Commit to Kids: Foundational Information for Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse – protectchildren.ca](https://protectchildren.ca). It is FREE and will only take about 23 minutes long to complete. Individuals can provide a screenshot of the record of participation certificate and the information will be updated on the directory.

For Babysitters

Are you interested in joining the UM Babysitter Directory? Becoming a babysitter can be a rewarding experience, allowing you to provide care for children, create meaningful connections, and contribute to the UM community. To begin your journey as a babysitter, there are some key steps in the registration process.

General Process

UM students can register to join the directory by sending UM Family Resources an email: FamilyResource@umanitoba.ca and attaching your resume.

They will receive a request to complete the UM Babysitter Profile Form via MS Forms.

Once complete, your information will be added manually into the directory by the Family Resource Coordinator.

Students can request access to the directory, in the same manner as the parents, to view their profile. Visit the [Family resources | University of Manitoba \(umanitoba.ca\)](https://umanitoba.ca/familyresources) and click on 'Request access to the UM Babysitter Directory'.

At any time, parents can contact their chosen person(s) to proceed with the hiring process. Parents may choose to conduct interviews and background checks, if they wish to do so, **as they will be considered the employers**. Similar to other job interviews, students are encouraged to be prepared to provide any certifications, records, criminal record or child abuse registry checks, or references- if it is indicated on their profile and are requested by the parent. All arrangements are made between the parent and the babysitter.

The UM Babysitter Profile Form on MS Forms will have questions that will not be displayed on the directory. This is to maintain some level of privacy for the students. Parents may ask some of the same questions during the hiring process.

According to the UM International Centre, international students are responsible for reviewing, understanding, and following requirements set forth by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to work off-campus during their studies. It is also important that international students review how the University of Manitoba defines full-time status to maintain compliance with IRCC and to understand how the institution defines full-time and part-time status, at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

i Tip: Be specific about the previous job titles and certifications/training you would like listed on the directory. For example, instead of typing on the form “worked at a youth camp”, you can enter “youth camp counsellor” or instead of typing “childminder in a daycare”, you can enter “Child Care Assistant (CCA) certificate”. Any discrepancies or new information can be reported to the Family Resource Coordinator and the directory will be updated.

Questions to Ask Parents

These are the top 25 questions to ask parents:

1. Have you used a babysitting service before?
2. What are the number of hours you require for babysitting?
3. What are the names/nicknames and ages of the children?
4. What are the children's personality traits, likes, dislikes?
5. What are the children's allergies, dietary restrictions, and medications? (if any)
6. What are the chores and tasks that are expected of me and the children?
7. Do you have any pets and what are their needs? (if any)
8. Are there cultural or religious practices that I should be mindful of?
9. Are there any safety issues in the neighborhood to be aware of?

Once you have secured the position, you can ask the following:

10. The emergency contact information and the location of the first aid kit
11. What are the snacks, games, and activities allowed and appropriate for the children?
12. What are the children's meal time (and bed time) routines?
13. Are there any foods in the house that the children should not eat?
14. Can you walk me through a typical evening?
15. What is the family's screen time policy?
16. Am I expected to help with the children's homework (for the older children)?
17. How will we communicate?
18. How often will you (parent) require for me to check-in with you?
19. Where can I find the supplies of diapers, wet wipes, and infant formula, etc.?
20. What are your preferred methods for dealing with tantrums?
21. Do the children have any anxiety or phobias?
22. Do the children have any self-soothing or calming down toys?
23. Do you have a policy on visitors while I am babysitting?
24. Are there any house rules that I need to be aware of?
25. What method will I be paid?

i Tip: To look professional and make a good impression, try to arrive at the family's house a few minutes ahead of time. If something unexpected happened and you anticipate that you will be late, it is important to contact the family to inform them and provide a reason why you will be late.

Sources:

[42 Questions to Ask Parents Before Babysitting \(enlightio.com\)](https://enlightio.com)

[What Should Babysitters Ask Parents? \(20 Important Questions\) \(kidsit.com\)](https://kidsit.com)

Top 12 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will the University of Manitoba be considered my employer?

No, the University of Manitoba will not be considered your employer. The UM serves as the centralized hub where parents can access babysitter information to request for service. The parents who hire you will be considered your employer.

2. Why do I need to use my UM student email address to register?

We ask for your student email address so that we are able to send you the babysitter profile form (MS Forms) to fill out. The restrictions are set on it that it can only be filled out by those who are part of the UM organization as a security measure.

3. Where is the directory housed and in what format?

The UM Babysitter Directory is housed in a private Team channel and only those who have filled out our Disclaimer Form will receive access to the directory. The directory itself is an Excel locked spreadsheet where participants have limited options to manipulate the directory. The filter option is available.

4. What type of information will be displayed?

Your name, student email address, certifications, relevant training, previous work experience, no. of children you are comfortable looking after, experience with children who have special needs, residency status, and language(s) spoken are what is currently viewable on the directory.

5. Will I have access to my information in the directory?

If you would like to view the directory, you can follow the same process as parents who request access. Please visit the [Family resources | University of Manitoba \(umanitoba.ca\)](#) and complete the Disclaimer Form.

6. Are there any requirements to apply as a sitter?

Having your current First Aid and CPR, clean criminal record and child abuse registry checks, relevant certifications/work experience are considered an asset or preferred but are not required. International students are responsible for ensuring that they are compliant with IRCC's regulations with regard to studying/working in Canada.

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection Agency has strongly recommended babysitters take the [Online Training: Commit to Kids: Foundational Information for Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse – protectchildren.ca](#). It is FREE and will only take about 23 minutes long to complete. Provide a screenshot of your record of participation certificate and your information will be updated on the directory.

7. Why are the categories on the directory so limited?

We have intentionally kept the categories on the UM Babysitter Directory limited to maintain a more streamlined view of the spreadsheet and to maintain a level of privacy for the students. Parents can ask more specific questions during the interview process.

8. How will parents contact me?

Parents will contact you initially via your student email address, to maintain a level of privacy and confidentiality. It is your choice to provide alternative contact options to parents.

9. I am under the age of 18 years old. Can I still register to be a babysitter?

Yes, as long as you are a current UM student and that you disclose your age to the parent.

10. Will the University have a space for the babysitters to provide the babysitting services?

At this time, we do not have a space for the babysitters to provide the babysitting services on campus. Babysitting would occur in the family's place of residence.

11. What if later on, I want my information removed?

Simply contact FamilyResource@umanitoba.ca (Fort Garry) or FamilyCentre@umanitoba.ca (RFHS, Bannatyne) to let us know and we will remove your information from the directory.

It is important that you inform us of when you have graduated and moved on from the University in order for us to remove your information from the directory.

12. What if I have some suggestions or feedback?

Your input is valuable to us, and you are more than welcome to contact us directly at any time. Quarterly, we will follow up with you and ask about your experience with the directory.

Helpful Information for Babysitters

Review the basics of babysitting

- ✓ [Babysitter Basic Training - YouTube](#)
- ✓ [2023 Babysitting Basics: What Does a Babysitter Do? - YouTube](#)
- ✓ [Babysitting Safety: What All Babysitters Should Know - YouTube](#)
- ✓ [Ask a Pedia | How to Change Baby's Diapers - YouTube](#)

Know the benefits of play

- ✓ [6 Benefits of Play & Young Kids - Physical, Emotional, Social, More \(thegeniusofplay.org\)](#)
- ✓ [Learning Through Play - Educational Experts - Series 1 - YouTube](#)

Be ready with engaging activity ideas to implement with the child

- ✓ [8 Icebreaker Activity Ideas /// Beginner's Guide to Babysitting - YouTube](#)
- ✓ [Play Ideas & Tips - Activities & Games for Indoor or Outdoor Learning \(thegeniusofplay.org\)](#)
- ✓ [209 Kids Activities \(Games & Fun Ideas for Babysitting or Home\) \(kidsit.com\)](#)
- ✓ [25 fun babysitting games to play on the job - Care.com Resources](#)
- ✓ [26 Fun and Easy Babysitting Ideas To Keep Kids Engaged | Indeed.com](#)
- ✓ [Move To The Beat | The Sitting Movement Song For Preschool & Kindergarten Music Groups - YouTube](#)

Learn about behavior management and strategies

- ✓ [Self Regulation in the Early Years - YouTube](#)
- ✓ [Zones Of Regulation For Kids - Secrets to a Growth Mindset: Episode 1 - YouTube](#)
- ✓ [5 \(More\) Self Regulation Games and Activities | Social Emotional Learning - YouTube](#)
- ✓ [Tip Sheets - Manitoba Parent Zone](#)
- ✓ [Nobody's Perfect Parenting Tip Sheets - Canada.ca](#)
- ✓ [6 tips to help your children control their emotions | UCLA Healthy Living Tips - YouTube](#)

Be informed regarding health and safety preparedness

- ✓ [Health conditions and treatments | Caring for kids \(cps.ca\)](#)
- ✓ [First Aid App - Canadian Red Cross](#)
- ✓ [Manitoba Poison Centre - Contact Us](#)
- ✓ [Emergency Information | City of Winnipeg](#)
- ✓ [Manitoba \(getprepared.gc.ca\)](#)

i Tip: If possible, prepare a bag of activities to bring with you to your babysitting job. This will help you to feel equipped and confident. You can include items like markers, paper, card games, etc. Most children will often prefer playing with [loose parts](#), which are basically free if you are able to collect them yourself. Remember that small objects can be hazardous for an infant or toddler and be sure to inform the parent of the items you have brought along with you.

[Understanding Loose Parts Play and its Benefits for Early Years \(earlyyearsresources.co.uk\)](#)

Other Resources

[Working in Canada as an international student - Canada.ca](#)

[Immigration information | University of Manitoba \(umanitoba.ca\)](#)