

UM Babysitter Directory

Resource guide for babysitters

Becoming a babysitter can be a rewarding experience by providing casual care for children, creating meaningful connections, contributing to the UM community, while earning some extra cash.

The UM Babysitter Directory is a digital platform developed exclusively with the University community of students, staff, and faculty parents in mind, and its goal is to serve as the platform for student babysitter information that parents can access to arrange babysitting services.

General process

1. Send an email to Family Resources at FamilyResource@umanitoba.ca and request to join the directory.
2. You will be sent a link to **Babysitter Profile Form** to complete. The form will ask you to list relevant credentials. Be prepared to show proof of completion/participation to the prospective family who will be interviewing you.
3. After the form has been completed, you will be sent a link to be added to a private Microsoft Teams channel where the directory is being housed to check that the information added on your behalf is accurate.
4. Wait for families to contact you.

Interview process

You have been contacted by a parent or guardian, and they have asked to meet with you. Now what?

1. Respond to the email in a timely manner.

Sample response:

Hello [name of individual],

Thank you for contacting me for a potential babysitting job offer. I would be happy to meet with you on (provide a date and time, unless they have already suggested a date and time, in which case you may respond with your availability).

I look forward to meeting you to see whether I would be a good fit for your family.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

2. Confirm a time and neutral location for the two of you to meet.
3. Remember to bring proof of your credentials to the meeting or share them ahead of the meeting, for example, first aid and CPR certificates, clean criminal record check, and clean child abuse checks, etc.
4. Prepare questions ahead of time that you may want to ask the parent or caregiver at the meeting.

Potential interview questions

These are the **top 21 questions a parent/caregiver may ask you** as a prospective babysitter:

1. Can you tell me a little about yourself?
2. What made you want to join the UM Babysitter Directory?
3. What are your biggest strengths? Weaknesses?
4. What do you think children like about you?
5. What do you think is the most rewarding part about babysitting? Most challenging?
6. Why do you think I should hire you?

Situational questions:

7. How would you handle boundaries and discipline with children?
8. How do you plan on keeping a child engaged and entertained?
9. What would you do if a child suddenly has a fever or gets injured?
10. Can you tell me a time when you have had to act quickly in an emergency?
11. What would you do if you could not contact me during an emergency?

Relevant training or previous experience working with children:

12. Can you tell me a little more about your previous work experience or training?
13. Do you have specific experience with newborns or toddlers? (if relevant)
14. Do you have specific experience with feeding, bathing, or bedtime routines?
15. Can you share your experience working with a child that has special needs or disabilities? (if relevant)

If they are interested in hiring you:

16. What mode of transportation will you be taking to my home?
17. Are you comfortable working in a home with pets? (if any)
18. Are you comfortable assisting with basic household tasks such as meal preparation, light cleaning, or helping with homework?
19. Do you have any other part-time jobs or commitments that may interfere during the time you will be watching my child?
20. What is your availability?
21. What is your expected hourly pay?

[Adapted from: [Family Care Office \(University of Toronto\)](#), [Common Interview Questions for Babysitters - Indeed.com](#), [Interviewing babysitters - Care.com](#)]

i Tip: It is important to know about the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) **regulations and requirements** for [working off-campus](#). If you are not aware of the regulations around this, please go to the IRCC website or contact the International Centre at international@umanitoba.ca for guidance.

Questions to Ask Parents

These are the **top 25 questions to ask parents or caregivers** (feel free to modify them):

1. Have you used a babysitting service before?
2. What are the hours that 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 applicable)
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 applicable)
8. Are there cultural or religious practices in the home that I should be mindful of?
9. Are there any safety issues in the neighborhood to be aware of?

Once you have been offered the job, you can ask the following:

10. Where are the emergency contact information and the location of the first aid kit?
11. What snacks, games, and activities are allowed?
12. What is the routine for mealtimes and bedtime? (if applicable)
13. Is there any food in the house that the children are not allowed to eat?
14. Can you walk me through a typical evening? (if applicable)
15. What is the family's screen time policy?
16. Am I expected to help with the children's homework? (if applicable)
17. How will we communicate?
18. How often will you require me to check-in with you?
19. Where can I find the supplies of diapers, wet wipes and infant formula, etc.? (if applicable)
20. What are your preferred methods for dealing with challenging behaviours?
21. Do the children have any anxiety or phobias?
22. Do the children have any self-soothing or calming down toys?
23. Are there any house rules that I need to be aware of?

After you have been offered the position, you can proceed to discuss your rate of pay expectations with the parent/caregiver:

24. Are you comfortable with \$____ per hour as my rate of pay?
25. What method will I be paid for my service?

[Adapted from: [42 Questions to Ask Parents Before Babysitting \(enlightio.com\)](#), [What Should Babysitters Ask Parents? \(20 Important Questions\) \(kidsit.com\)](#)]

Suggested pay rates for babysitters in Winnipeg

Casual babysitting is not a regulated occupation in Manitoba. Rates can be negotiated between the parent/caregiver and student.

[Government of Canada | Job Bank | Babysitter Wages in Winnipeg Region](#)
[Government of Manitoba | Employment Standard | Minimum Wage](#)

Important information to ask for before the job begins

- Emergency contact information
- General care instructions
- List of basic items and their locations
- Children's activity schedule
- Baby feeding and diaper changing schedule (if applicable)
- Pet care instructions (if applicable)
- Family's emergency plan (optional)

Other information

It's important to note that the University of Manitoba is not considered the employer. The UM Babysitter Directory serves as the platform where babysitter information is posted for parents to view and select who they want to hire. The directory is housed in a private Microsoft Teams channel and only those who have filled out the Disclaimer Form will receive access to the directory.

Only your name, student email address, certifications, relevant training, previous work experience, preferred number of children you are comfortable providing care for, whether you have experience with children who have special needs, residency status, and language(s) spoken are what is currently viewable on the directory. Parents will be contacting via your UM student email. Ensure that you are checking your inbox regularly.

Note: If you are under 18 years of age, you are still eligible to join the directory. Please remember to disclose this information when you meet with the parents.

There are no specific requirements to be listed as a babysitter except for having a current, active student status. Having your First Aid and CPR training, clean criminal and child abuse registry checks, and/or relevant work experience would be considered an asset. You will be sent a link to view and review your profile on the directory. If any information changes, please contact the Family Resource Coordinator at FamilyResource@umanitoba.ca to update your profile.

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection Agency has recommended that babysitters take the following online training:

[Commit to Kids: Foundational Information for Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse](#)

It is free of charge and will only take about 23 minutes to complete. After completion you may choose to send a copy to Family Resources so that your information on the directory can be updated or you can show the prospective parent/guardian a digital copy of your Record of Participation Certificate.

There is currently no dedicated space on campus to provide babysitting services.

Resources

Know the benefits of play

[CMEC Statement on Play-based Learning | Council of Ministers of Education, Canada](#)
[Chapter 2: A Foundation in Play | Government of Manitoba](#)

[Children's and Educators' Roles in Play-based Learning](#)

Be ready with engaging activity ideas to implement with the child

[Activities for Kids | Canadian Child Care Federation](#)

[Kids in motion | Government of Manitoba](#)

Learn about behavior management and strategies

[Behaviour: Ways to Guide Your Child's Behaviour | Government of Canada](#)

[Caring for Kids: Behaviour & Development | Canadian Paediatric Society](#)

[Positive discipline for young children | Canadian Paediatric Society](#)

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 \(getprepared.gc.ca\)](#)

[Expect the unexpected – notes and activities to prepare for emergencies | Canadian Red Cross](#)

[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.

[Loose Parts Play: A Toolkit](#)

[Understanding Loose Parts Play and its Benefits for Early Years](#)

Optional training (costs apply)

- If you are interested in going for your First Aid & CPR training certification, here are some of the places in Winnipeg that offer them:

Canadian Red Cross

Website: <https://www.redcross.ca/in-your-community/manitoba/first-aid-and-cpr>

First Aid Training Centre

Website: <https://www.firstaidtrainingcentre.ca/>

St. John's Ambulance Canada

Website: <https://sja.ca/en/first-aid-training>

Winnipeg First Aid

Website: <https://firstaidwinnipeg.ca/>

YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg

Website: <https://www.ywinnipeg.ca/training-centre/first-aid-cpr>

- If you are interested in getting a copy of your Criminal Record Check, visit:

Winnipeg Police Service – Online criminal record checks

Website: <https://www.winnipeg.ca/police/services/online-record-checks>

Winnipeg Police Service – For non-Winnipeg residents

Website: <https://www.policeresolutions.ca/checks/services/winnipeg2/>

- If you are interested in getting a copy of your Child Abuse Registry Check, visit:

Government of Manitoba – Child Abuse Registry

Website: https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/child_abuse_registry.html

Additional Resources

Children with Epilepsy

[Epilepsy and Seizure Associate of Manitoba](#)

- Importance of observing and recording a seizure
- Seizure observation and recording chart
- Information for babysitters
- Seizure Identification and first aid
- ...and more

This document can be made available in alternate formats.

For questions or comments, please direct them to:

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Family Resource Coordinator

Email: FamilyResource@umanitoba.ca