

UM Babysitter Directory

Resource guide for parents and guardians

As a busy parent balancing the demands of work and family life, searching for a babysitter can be a daunting task. Whether you need a sitter for occasional childminding or on more of a regular basis, this resource guide will help you navigate through the process.

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.

The directory consists of babysitter profiles and other information such as relevant training, certifications, previous work experience, preferred locations, availability, and more. It is open to all UM faculty members, support staff, and students.

General process

1. Parents can request access to the directory by visiting the [UM Family Resources page](#) and scrolling down to the UM Babysitter Directory section.
2. Select the 'Request access to the UM Babysitter Directory' arrow which will take you directly to the **Disclaimer Form** to complete.
3. After the Disclaimer Form has been completed, the parent will receive an email with a link to be added to a private Microsoft Teams channel where the directory is being housed.
4. From the list, parents can choose a student to schedule an interview.

Note: There is currently no dedicated space on campus to conduct the interview or provide babysitting services. Babysitting does not need to take place in your home; however, you are responsible for making these arrangements.

Vetting process

1. Contact the student via email.
2. Determine a time and neutral location for the two of you to meet.
3. Request for the student to bring proof of their credentials to the meeting (or share them with you ahead of time). Examples of credentials are first aid and CPR certificates, clean criminal record check, clean child abuse checks, letter of references, etc.
4. Prepare questions you may want to ask ahead of the meeting.

Potential interview questions

These are the **top 21 questions to ask prospective babysitters** (feel free to modify them to fit your needs):

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 falls ill 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 reach me during an emergency?

If the individual has 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 applicable)
14. Do you have specific experience with feeding, bathing, or bedtime routines? (if applicable)
15. Can you share your experience working with a child that has special needs or disabilities? (if applicable)

If you are interested in hiring the individual:

16. What mode of transportation will you be taking to my home?
17. Are you comfortable working in a home with pets? (if applicable)
18. Are you comfortable assisting with basic household tasks such as meal preparation, light cleaning, or helping with homework? (if applicable)
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: If the prospective babysitter is an international student, please inquire what they know about the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) **regulations and requirements** for [working off-campus](#). If they are not aware of the regulations around this, please direct them to the IRCC website or the International Centre at international@umanitoba.ca.

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 leave with the babysitter

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

Other resources

Baby Care Log | Baby Center

Website: https://assets.babycenter.com/ims/Content/babytracker_notext_final.pdf

An Age-by-Age Guide to Understanding and Coping with Separation Anxiety | Parents Canada

Website: <https://parentscanada.com/family-life/mental-health/separation-anxiety/>

Emergency preparedness | Canadian Red Cross

Website: <https://cdn.redcross.ca/prodmedia/crc/documents/3-1-2-1-Expect-the-Unexpected.pdf>

UM Childcare Program Search and Waitlist Assistance

Receive search assistance and help with entering your information onto multiple waitlists within your preferred postal code area(s). Contact the Family Resource Coordinator for more details.

This document can be made available in alternate formats.

For questions or comments, please direct them to:

Francene Perehinec

Family Resource Coordinator

Email: FamilyResource@umanitoba.ca