



## *Connecting UK Families to UK Students*

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**Big Blue Family Care strives to make finding a great childcare provider as simple as possible. After reviewing the student-caregiver profiles, the below questions can be helpful in choosing the right caregiver for your child(ren) and in ensuring your expectations are met.**

**We strongly recommend you read over the following questions/information and discuss them with the caregiver to establish expectations regarding your family's preferences, routines, and house rules before they begin providing care.** If preferred, you can also use this guide to create an agreement with the student caregiver about specific expectations.

### **Interviewing a caregiver:**

We strongly encourage you to interview potential student caregiver(s) before confirming childcare arrangements. Asking opened ended questions about their childcare experience and skills is a good way to get to know them better. This is also a good time to discuss the details of the position (e.g. childcare expectations, tasks), the hourly rate, and ask for references.

### **Interview questions:**

- What are the ages of children you have provided care for before and in what circumstance? What was the duration of care?
- What activities are you involved in in your spare time?
- Your profile lists that you are available on \_\_\_\_\_ days and times. Is that still correct?
- Your profile listed \$\_\_\_\_\_ as your preferred hourly rate. Is that still correct?
- The date we need care to begin is \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_. Would you be able to start then?
- What do you like best about providing childcare and what activities do you enjoy doing with kids?
- How do you/would you handle an emergency situation?
- What is the most difficult situation you have encountered while providing childcare and how did you handle it?

- How do you comfort and discipline children? What do you think is the best way to handle temper tantrums?
- What is your comfort level with cooking and preparing meals for kids? OR What is your experience preparing and heating a bottle?
- Do you have experience changing diapers? (If applicable.)
- How comfortable are you with bathing children and bedtime routines? (If applicable.)
- What questions do you have for me?

**Questions for reference checks:**

- What were his/her (the caregiver's) responsibilities?
- Did your child(ren) feel safe and attended to in their care?
- How did he/she relate to your child?
- Was he/she responsible, reliable, and punctual?
- Did he/she follow house rules?
- How highly would you recommend his/her services?
- Would you hire them again?

**Other information to help orient your childcare provider to your home and child(ren):**

- Take them on a tour of your home.
- Establish a cancellation notice (i.e. if they can't provide care for you, they should let you know at least \_\_ hours in advance).
- If they are providing transportation for your child(ren), discuss whether they'll be using their own car or your car.
- Ask them if they know how to use a child seat (if applicable). If they don't, show them how to use one before they provide transportation.
- Give them emergency contact numbers: yours, friends or neighbors, doctors, emergency services.
- Review guidelines and routines regarding meal times, naptime, bedtime, and playtime-whether it's specific food requests or allergies, brushing teeth, washing hands, changing diapers, assisting with toilet training, amount of television time, etc.
- Explain possible behavior problems and how you want them to be handled (i.e. time outs, loss of privileges, grounding, etc.).
- Let the caregiver know whom your child(ren) may play with or visit.
- Leave a list of activities that your child(ren) would like and where items can be found.
- Explain what medications should be given, how, and where they are kept.
- Let the caregiver know whether it's okay or not for them to sleep after they have put the child(ren) to bed (if applicable).

**Factors the influence caregiver hourly rates:**

- The number and ages of child(ren) cared for.
- Where you live and how far the childcare provider has to travel (you may want to add a couple of dollars for gas or ask them to record their mileage for reimbursement).
- How much responsibility you are expecting of the childcare provider and how much experience they have.
- Long hours and late or overnight hours may require a higher hourly rate.

**\*Payment should be discussed before you officially hire a student caregiver.**

**We've included each student caregiver's preferred hourly rate on their profile.**

**You may also find the rate calculator located on Big Blue Family Care website to be helpful in determining the average hourly rate for caregivers in Lexington.\***