



Friday, February 11, 2011

By Matt O'Donnell



Parenting: How much do you pay the babysitter?

Maybe babysitters will one day unionize, demanding better pay, benefits, and working conditions. Until that happens, it's really up to you as to how much you pay one.

Four dollars an hour? Ten dollars? Do you pay them more if the kids were really bad? If they had to be fed? If they needed to be bathed?

One website tries to at least answer some of those questions. It is called sittercity.com. It calculates a babysitter rate from the answer to four questions:

1. Where do you live (zip code)?
2. How old is the babysitter?
3. How many children do you have?
4. How much experience does the babysitter have?

And then, viola! You have a rate.

By the way, my wife and I usually pay our babysitters 10 dollars an hour. I entered our information into the babysitter calculator, and according to the site, our babysitters are underpaid! Sorry, sitters!

[Read more Parenting Perspective blogs by visiting the Parenting Channel on 6abc.com.](#)

(Copyright ©2011 WPVI-TV/DT. All Rights Reserved.)