

# Your guide to being a nanny

“ Being a nanny gives you the satisfaction of seeing your input shape a child's behaviour in a positive way... watching them grow and progress and knowing that some of that was down to you. ”

Nanny

## What is involved?

Nannies look after children in private homes and work closely with the families and children to support the care and development of each child. Nannies' duties vary depending on the ages and needs of the children they care for. When working with babies and very young children, nannies are responsible for dressing, feeding, changing nappies, comforting babies and playing with them, and looking after their safety and hygiene. With older children, nannies will often be responsible for encouraging and supporting them with important skills such as reading and writing, number work and play.

Nannies plan and organise stimulating activities for children such as trips or park outings where they can play with other children.

Nannies also need to build a good relationship with the parents or carers to meet the children's needs and interests and keep parents updated on each child's development.

Some nannies are responsible for some housework and cooking children's meals.

## Is working as a nanny right for me?

You need to have:

- a genuine interest in the social and personal development of children;
- a commitment to the child's safety and well-being;
- imagination and the ability to plan and organise stimulating activities;
- the ability to create good relationships with parents or carers and children and
- patience and the ability to remain calm under pressure.



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## What experience/qualifications do I need?

There are no formal requirements to become a nanny, but parents look for nannies with a childcare qualification, previous experience of working with children, and a first aid certificate.

Nannies do not have to be registered or inspected but they can choose to become approved through the voluntary part of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) Childcare Register. The Childcare Register is a voluntary scheme for approving childcare providers, such as nannies, who meet certain criteria. For further information on these requirements please visit the Ofsted website at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). The benefits of becoming an approved nanny or childcarer include verification that an individual has a childcare qualification or relevant training and has had appropriate first aid training and that an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check has been carried out. It also means that parents are able to apply for the childcare element of Working Tax Credit if eligible.

## How much could I earn?

Pay rates for nannies vary considerably depending on whether they are live-in nannies, receiving food and accommodation, or daily nannies. Nannies should be employed by the family they work for rather than be self-employed. The parents should pay tax and national insurance. If they do not, the nanny's pension will be affected.

## What are the working hours?

Working hours for nannies vary by arrangement with their employer. However, the hours can be long and irregular and can include some evening and weekends depending on the family's needs. Nannies may live with their employer and their family or be employed as a daily nanny. There may also be opportunities to work abroad as some families ask their nannies to go on holiday or live abroad with them to look after the children.

## Further training and opportunities

Nannies can work towards NVQ levels 2 and 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development. NVQs in these levels are awarded by City and Guilds, the Open University, BTEC and CACHE. In order to find out the entry requirements for these courses please contact the individual college you wish to attend. There are also job opportunities for nannies overseas. Positions are advertised through agencies and in the national and local press. Some experienced and qualified nannies may also move into nursery nurse positions.

## Useful contacts:

**Ofsted**

**0845 640 4040**

[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**National Childminding Association (NCMA)**

**0800 169 4486**

[www.ncma.org.uk](http://www.ncma.org.uk)

**Nannytax**

**0845 226 2203**

[www.nannytax.co.uk](http://www.nannytax.co.uk)

## Family Information Service

Children's Services  
222 Upper Street  
London N1 1XR

**T** 020 7527 5959

**E** [fis@islington.gov.uk](mailto:fis@islington.gov.uk)

**W** [www.islington.gov.uk/fis](http://www.islington.gov.uk/fis)