

are you a good BABY-SITTER?

by Sue Carpenter

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY if a prospective buyer of your baby-sitting services were to ask you a few pertinent questions? Would you panic—or could you give the answers with assurance? Take this quiz

1. As his parents start to leave the house, Johnny cries. Should you—
A. Let his mother handle him?
B. Spank him?
C. Try to divert his attention?
2. Johnny wants you to read to him. Would you—
A. Select a book you think he would enjoy?
B. Let him select a book?
C. Suggest another form of amusement?
3. Johnny scatters toys all over the house. Should you—
A. Pick up the toys together?
B. Make a game of putting the toys away?
C. Suggest he pick up the toys himself, but don't make an issue of it?
4. Johnny wants to watch a certain television program, but his sister Jane doesn't. Would you suggest—
A. Another type program?
B. That you and she do something together while Johnny watches television?
C. Turn off the television?
5. You prepare a bedtime snack, and Johnny spills his milk. Would you—

and find out. If you get at least eight answers right, you know your business. If you do poorly, however, don't despair. Study the answers and apply them each time you baby-sit, and your services are sure to be in demand.

- A. Have him mop it up?
B. Leave it for his mother?
C. Quietly mop it up yourself?
6. A neighbor wants to leave her two children with you while she and her husband go out. Would you—
A. Say it's okay?
B. Ask for an additional fee?
C. Refuse politely?
7. A child you're sitting with suddenly develops a stomach ache. Would you—
A. Call the child's mother for instructions?
B. Call the doctor?
C. Give the child an aspirin?
8. A child you're taking care of doesn't want to go to bed. Would you—
A. Make him a bed on the couch?
B. Be firm, but tell him a bedtime story?
C. Whisk him off to bed despite his protests?
9. Once the children are in bed, you should—
A. Collapse on the sofa?
B. Try to make the house as neat as you found it?
C. Visit on the phone with friends?

Answers

1. C is best. You can make Johnny want to stay with you by explaining what a good time he'll have while his mother is away. Don't expect his mother to take over here; she's paying you for your services, so this is your problem. Spanking will only increase his agitation.
2. B is effective. The interest will be greater if you let him select what he wants to read.
3. C is best. Johnny should put his toys away, but if he refuses and you insist, you may upset him.
4. B can serve as an opportunity for you to get really acquainted with Jane. A isn't likely to work if Johnny is really set on seeing that program.
5. C is fastest and best. A child isn't likely to do a very neat job of mopping. His mother will appreciate your

efforts to keep things neat.

6. C is best, since the person who hired you didn't mention the neighbor's children.
7. A is correct. You will want to do what the mother thinks best. You would call the doctor, though, if you couldn't reach her. Never give medicine without the mother's permission.
8. B is correct. A well-told or well-read story will make bedtime a pleasure.
9. B is best. This does not mean doing dishes, ironing, or other chores your employer has neglected, unless she offered you extra pay for doing them. You may feel like collapsing, but remember that this is your job, so be business-like. Try to leave things as you found them.

Quiz

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