

Child Care Options For Work At Home Parents

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A large percentage of people who choose to work at home, both telecommuters and those with a home business, make their decision based around their families. Often, these families include one or more young children. Working from home means that there is a lot more flexibility when it comes to childcare options, as parents can work their own schedules so that they need little or no childcare or work around the schedule of a babysitter. There are several options open to parents who need to have their children out of the house so that they can have that little bit of extra time to finish up some important assignments. This article will detail a few of them.

Do It Yourself

One of the greatest perks about making your own work schedule from home is that you do have the ability to work around your children's schedule. The upsides are enormous. You will spend more time with your kids, and it will be free of cost. On the other hand, there will be times when your kids provide the biggest distractions when you simply have to finish off some important work. Still, you can always work during nap times, quiet times, or after the kids have gone to bed for the night.

After School Programs

If you have school age kids, there are a lot of after school programs offered through community centers and schools where kids can go after they get out of school to kill some time before mom and dad are off work. These programs will often keep the kids busy and happy as they participate in a lot of different activities with their peers.

Siblings

Some parents are fortunate enough to have had their kids a few years apart. In this case, the family has a built-in babysitter to help out when the parents are busy.

Babysitter

Traditional babysitters are always an option at any time of day. There are a lot of different types of babysitters out there of different ages and abilities. You can have an older student who is of legal babysitting age accompany your kids home from school and then take care of them until the work day is done. You could also find an adult who does not work to take care of your kids on days when you are behind.

A Nanny

A nanny is a person that you have hired specifically to take care of your children, usually on a full time basis. Nannies can live with the family whose children they take care of or can live out of the home and report to work at a certain time each day. There are lots of certified nannies out there, so you are bound to be able to find one that fits your needs and your screening requirements.

Au Pair. An au pair is a person who looks after kids in exchange for room and board while traveling.

These caretakers are usually from another country and are looking for an opportunity to travel. You can obtain the services of an au pair through an agency, and you should remember that unlike nannies, au pairs are not considered employees but more along the lines of exchange students.

Babysitting Co-ops

This is a group of parents who meets together on a regular basis and who take turns looking after each other's kids. Co-ops by nature are limited in the number of children they can take, so usually about three families will get together to organize the responsibilities. They will alternate days of the week when they are responsible for child care.

Play Dates

Play dates are great because they are a time when you can get your work done without your kids around, but really no one is being paid to look after them. Instead, they are off playing at a friend's house for a time. It is important that you are always willing to reciprocate the favor of hosting the play date.

Day Care Center

These are centers set up to look after kids during the day. They are in buildings specifically designed for the purpose, with lots of activities and certified professionals to look after the kids. Usually you will have to supply your children with their lunch for the day.

Family Day Care

Family day cares are usually also certified, but unlike centers they are organized within a home in a community. They usually take fewer kids than centers but are still full of activities, and often the family providing the service will take care of meals.

Family And Friends

If you are fortunate enough to live in the same town as your family, then the odds are pretty good that you have someone who is more than willing to help you out with looking after your kids. Grandparents, aunts and uncles are all usually very willing to chip in and look after the family babies when they have time. Friends are also pretty accommodating, especially friends with children of their own.