

Pay Grade

Professional Role Models

By AJA CARMICHAEL
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The job: A nanny

The pay: The average salary for a live-in nanny is \$500 a week, while a live-out nanny makes \$550 a week, according to the International Nanny Association in Houston. The National Alliance of Professional Nanny Agencies in Seattle says the starting hourly wage for a nanny without nanny-school training ranges between \$10 and \$15, while an experienced nanny with a degree may earn \$16 to \$25 an hour.



UpperCut Images

The hours: Full-time nannies who live outside the home work up to 45 hours a week. Live-in nannies may be asked to put in more flexible (and longer) hours -- many say 12-hour days are the norm.

Benefits: Most nannies don't receive benefits. A small number receive health, dental and prescription-drug benefits, plus car insurance. Live-in nannies may have access to a car, as well as meals and housing.

Other incentives: Some employers offer college funding or pay for training such as cooking courses. "A nanny can do a lot of traveling with the right family," says Rebecca Washington, a nanny for two toddlers in Seattle, who has traveled to Nigeria, Italy and the Netherlands. "It's exciting, and I would probably never take myself to most of the places."

Career path: Many nannies start as baby sitters, day-care workers or mother's assistants. Agencies say there is high demand for candidates with education and child-development degrees. Spotless criminal and driving records as well as first-aid and CPR training are a draw. Private schools may offer certificates that require annual first-aid tests in addition to a year of training. Students at English Nanny & Governess School Inc. in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, for instance, take three months of classes followed by a nine-month paid internship, which includes an employer review.

Best part of the job: "Taking care of the kids is great," says Emily Echols, a live-in nanny for two children in Evanston, Ill. "Watching them accomplish something makes me feel like I played a role in their life."

Worst part of the job: "It's very hard to find balance between work and personal time," says Annie Lindstrom, a live-in nanny for two children in Lake Forest, Ill. "Building separate relationships and hobbies are necessary," she notes, but "you can't just walk past the children on your day off."

Hiring: International Nanny Association www.nanny.org

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