FREE TAKE AWAY

GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK - START A BABYSITTING CO-OP OF YOUR OWN

http://www.allthingsclipart.com/images_01c/mom01.jpg

1. Begin by making a list of what your groups' goal and guidelines would look like. Here's a ***sample*** of some goals and guidelines that have been used by others.

Goal: To act as a support group for families of young children by providing high quality, occasional home-based child care on a time exchange basis.

General Guideline Ideas:

- ✓ Sitting is generally in the sitter's home, daytime hours. Weekends and evening are only by mutual agreement and is not mandatory as this is considered family time.
- ✓ No more than 5(five) preschoolers at one time that are not blood related.
- ✓ President and Treasurer are six month term positions rotated throughout the membership.
- ✓ President's job will be to coordinate and chair the meetings, while Treasurer keeps track of exchanged hours. The rest host meetings on a rotational basis.
- ✓ Secretary is drawn each month from a member in attendance.
- ✓ Parent arranges their own sitter. Calls the Treasurer after you have babysat. The rate is one point per child per hour with the third child in the same family credited straight point to sitter, no charge to parents using service.
- ✓ Hours are to be read at monthly meetings.
- ✓ Emergency/medical and maternity – free time for mom and full credit to sitter, subject to the discretion of the Treasurer and/or President.
- ✓ Alumni are welcome at all social functions, and are permitted to use co-op in emergency and can use their credits or work off debits until their balance is nil.

As mentioned already, these are sample guidelines. Use them as a springboard to launch your own co-op. Chances are that if you're at home feeling isolated as a mom, you're not alone.

2. Make a list of people you think may be interested. Start small and establish some guidelines around sponsoring to grow your group.
3. Get busy, call a coffee party to discuss the possibilities. Make it a picnic. If the weather isn't co-operating then make it an indoor picnic. Ask everyone to bring their own blanket and food with something to share around. You provide the tea, coffee and water.

4. Assuming all goes well. Set a sustainable monthly meeting time for mom's only to gather and work out details. It may have to be an evening affair that will become a short business meeting followed by a social gathering to build relationships.

Remember, it's about building one another up, and sharing the work load is one way to do it.

All the very best,

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