

# NEWS SHOPPER

Beckenham & Penge

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## Little Masters and Misses

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Shopper

Wednesday April 1st 1998

## NEWS

# Budget's a match made in hell for marriage, says MP

BECKENHAM MP Jacqui Lait has accused the Budget of encouraging people to have children out of wedlock. Mrs Lait

described the Government's changes to the tax system as an attack on family values and said it put jobs before family.

At a Conservative Association meeting in Beckenham she told a packed audience: "It threatens the institution of marriage.

"It makes it easier for people to enter relationships knowing they will receive reasonable incomes for any children.

"The Chancellor said this is a budget for chil-

dren. But what about marriage? This is all about making sure children are looked after without putting it in the framework of marriage."

Chancellor Gordon Brown slashed £1 billion from the Married Couples Allowance in the budget announced two weeks ago.

He also introduced changes to family credit and the tax system, as part of a £5 billion scheme to help parents return to work.

Many have welcomed the move to get people off benefits. But Mrs Lait thinks jobs

are being put before the family.

At the meeting on Friday, March 20 she told members: "They're forcing people into a straight jacket where, in essence, the only way people can get a reasonable income is to force them to go out to work. Many people believe children are best looked after with their mothers at home."

Not everyone agrees. Deborah Ellif, who runs a nanny agency used by dozens of working parents in Bromley and Beckenham, believes the budget has chil-

dren's welfare at heart and increases choice.

"I agree children thrive best in a loving and close family relationship, but I also think each family has the right to decide what is best for their unit — be that for one parent to remain with the child or for both to work and employ a professional carer.

"Whether parents are encouraged back to employment, choose to work, or have to work, they need to be assured in their absence their child is being properly cared for."

1998

Little Masters  
and  
Misses

**PRESS RELEASE**

**PREMIER NANNY & BABYSITTING SERVICE**

"Specialists in the care of children since 1985"

7<sup>th</sup> November 2001

**A Christmas present for parents**

The festive season will soon be upon us, bringing with it invitations to all manner of pre Christmas events. For the parents among us, however, the number of invitations we can accept is often only equal to the number of local and amenable relatives and friends that we can persuade to babysit.

Well worth considering then is Little Masters and Misses (LM&M) Babysitting service. Deborah Elliff started LM&M in 1985 after a long career as a Nanny herself. Sixteen years on there are over 250 families registered with the service and around 70 childcare qualified babysitters, all of who have been agency vetted (including police check) and are car drivers with current first aid certificates.

Deborah said: We get extremely positive feedback from our clients many of whom renew their subscriptions year after year. In fact, we have now introduced a gift voucher pack as many families are seeing a six monthly or annual subscription to the service as an ideal present for fellow parents."

The babysitting service is just one string to the Little Masters and Misses bow. The company also offers a very successful nanny service and, over the years, Deborah has introduced numerous initiatives designed to safeguard the well being of the children for whom she arranges care:

- LM&M was the first agency to introduce its own First Aid course for nannies & babysitters. Also daytime talks by Doctors on Meningitis symptoms & by the British Red Cross on First Aid.
- The agency produces regular newsletters and fact sheets to keep nannies, babysitters and clients informed of industry and agency developments.

Deborah added: "Any parent that has ever complained that their children have a better social life than them could benefit from a subscription to our babysitting service."

**Ends**

**Note:** Registration from £45. Hourly rates 4.50/5.50.

**Enquiries:** Emma Pyott, Semaphore Public Relations. T 020 8289 6119 E talk@semaphore-pr.co.uk

**Proprietor: Deborah Elliff (NNEB and experienced Nanny)**  
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