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Families

SOUTH EAST

The information-packed LOCAL magazine for SE Londoners

Childcare and the Budget

• An anticipated 500,000 parents will be seeking childcare places once the working family tax credit comes into being from October 1999. Based on current provisions this would lead to a serious shortage of qualified childminders, playworkers and nursery staff, so if you've ever considered working in childcare - now's the time to start training or setting up that nursery. A good first step is the Daycare Trust's **Start it Up!** pack which has full details on setting up your own childcare scheme, £7.50 from 4 Wildcourt, London WC2B 4AU.



- Debbie Eliff, who owns **Little Masters and Misses Nanny Agency** (0181-771 5122) has welcomed the new childcare reforms, particularly the cut in employers' National Insurance contributions which as she told me: "will benefit families who employ a nanny since it will reduce the overall cost. Families may in turn choose to share some of this saving with their nanny, perhaps as part of an annual salary review".
- Employers have a new incentive to attract returning mothers with 4-14 year-old children. Developed by Childcare Vouchers in partnership with the Kids Club

Little Masters and Misses

NANNY & BABYSITTING SERVICE (KCS reg.)

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Our vast experience is your ultimate peace of mind

- ★ We are well known & can pride ourselves on our prompt & caring high standard of service.
- ★ We introduce LOCAL good natured, mature childcarers that are childcare qualified & experienced. We conduct an informative 1hr + interview, reference & police check.

CHISLEHURST BROMLEY DULWICH BLACKHEATH

Please contact Debbie (NNEB) Mon-Fri 9am - 5/7 pm

0181-771 5122 ansph.

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First Aid for Nannies

The free First Aid demonstration run for nannies during Child Safety Week by **Little Masters & Misses** agency was so oversubscribed that it's to become a quarterly event. Jeanne Hatherley from the Red Cross takes groups of nannies through practical demonstrations in resuscitating babies and children and dealing with incidents such as burns, scalds and choking. Any local nannies interested in joining a session can telephone Deborah Eliff at Little Masters & Misses on 0181-711 5122.

• Just in time for Bonfire Night **St John Ambulance**, in association with Wall's Sausages, has produced an excellent First Aid guide that opens out as a quick reference poster. It contains First Aid tips for the most common injuries caused by fireworks (and other incidents) and is available free - for a copy send an SAE to St John Ambulance, National Headquarters, 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EF. *Debbie*

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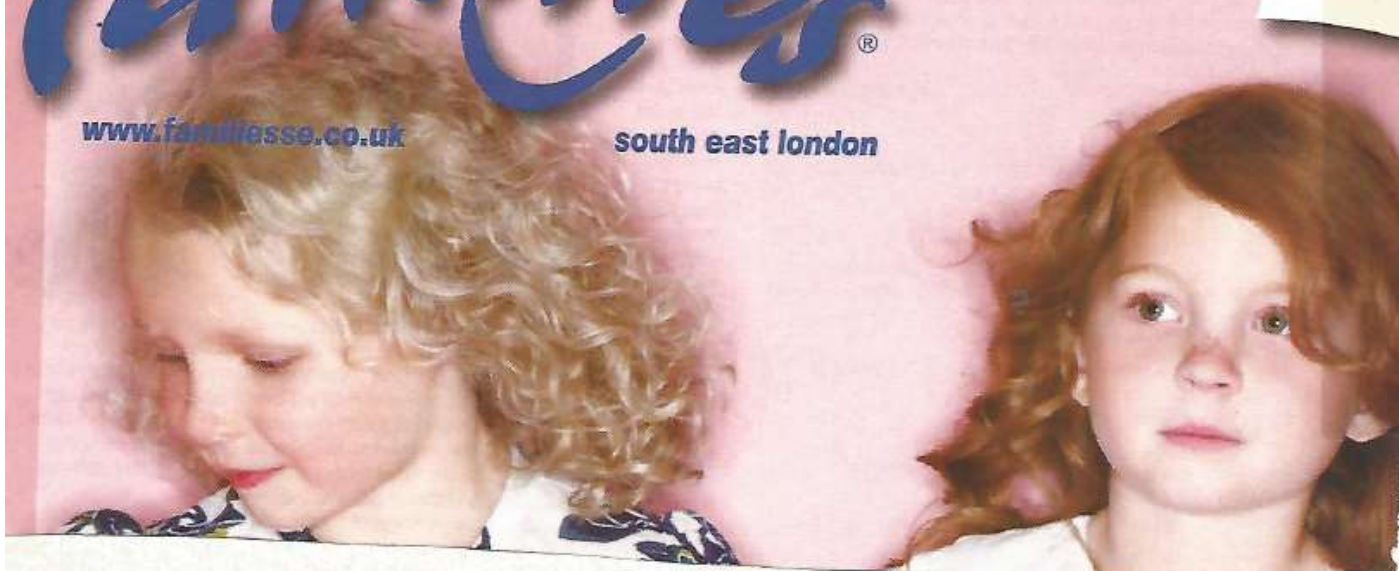
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first aid for families

Recently, my teenage daughter and I attended a daylong First Aid course with the British Red Cross. It's been on my mind to get round to it sometime, and when she started babysitting for neighbours, we thought it might give her (and the parents) more confidence.

The course was organised by Little Masters & Misses, who have been running a course for nannies in conjunction with the British Red Cross since 1998, in that time training around 300 local nannies and babysitters (and now one Families editor!).

In a recent survey, over 60% of parents admitted knowing nothing about First Aid. If you're one of them, taking a course could be the best thing you do this summer.

Little Masters and Misses are running First Aid Saturdays courses for parents at the Red Cross centre in Beckenham. The course covers all the essentials including choking, CPR, anaphylactic shock and dealing with minor injuries, burns and scalds, and costs £60. To book or find out more, call Debbie at Little Masters and Misses on 020 8650 3232 or see www.littlemastersandmisses.com

Top Tips when employing a nanny

Debbie Eliff (NNEB) has run Little Masters and Misses for over 32 years. Here she offers some tips for searching (particularly online) for a nanny, childminder or evening babysitter.

Little Masters and Misses

est. 1985
 £99 max fee to find a professional interviewed and referenced checked
 • Nanny • Registered Childminder
 • Evening Babysitter
 call **020 8650 3232**
 Childcarers join for free
 Based Beckenham High Street
www.littlemastersandmisses.com

More and more parents are turning to the internet to find childcare. Lured in by the promise of cheap fees and '1000s of CVs' they get swept up by the convenience of being able to browse 24/7 without checking the small print. These online services are just 21st century shop notice boards and not, as many parents believe, a Nanny Agency like Little Masters and Misses.

It's unlikely that the IT people who run the site have reference-checked, interviewed or even spoken to the childcarers listed. So parents must be vigilant about making their own reference checks, ensuring that there are no unexplained gaps in employment and understanding the various qualifications and what they mean. Sadly, in practice this doesn't always happen and we know of a number of serious scenarios, gross misconduct issues and parents being unfairly gross overcharged on salary.

- 1. Finding the right child carer cannot be rushed** - you are planning to hand over responsibility for the people you treasure most in life, together with giving access to your home and belongings. Finding the right person is a huge responsibility so make sure to leave yourself enough time.
- 2. Question why people pay to be on a website where no checks or interviews are made** - it can be an easy way for unprofessional, unreliable or unscrupulous people to display their unchecked CV where they can invent baby experience information, delete a past job/s where an employer might not give a good reference, or over quote on their salary. We've seen all these things happen!
- 3. Interviews** - these should always be face to face. A second interview of around two hours is essential and this is the time to see how they communicate, play and relate with your child and family.

Be clear what you want from them - discuss your house routines, rules and chosen outings and make sure the candidates understand how you want things done

Reference telephone checks - aim for three to include their past and current employer. Don't be afraid to ask if they would re-employ them. Maybe enquire what was the best thing about them or if they had to change one thing, what that would be

- 6. Legally** - when employing a nanny the employer must make PAYE tax deductions. There is lots of information online about how to meet this responsibility.
- 7. The really good news** - in 2017 Little Masters and Misses is launching a safer, stress free and easy to use online service to help parents find the right childcarer. All the CVs on our site will be from candidates that we've interviewed face to face and for whom we've started reference checks. All for a cost to you of just £99!

Little Masters and Misses has an office in Beckenham and covers London, Kent and Surrey. To find out more, contact Debbie on 020 8650 3232 or go to www.littlemastersandmisses.com.

One year on in East Dulwich

Abbeville Nannies celebrated their first run up to Christmas in the new East Dulwich office which opened to complement the busy Clapham and Putney offices.

They told us: "We opened the office early in 2016 in response to a noticeable increase in demand from families in the SE London area, who need a range of childcare from full time nannies to part time mothers helps and of course after school nannies. We've noticed that nanny shares are increasing as they are so cost effective. Also, East Dulwich and the surrounding areas are a popular place for nannies to work, so we're delighted to have joined the local community." To get in touch with the team, call 020 7720 1144 or see www.abbevilennannies.co.uk.