

## **Stay-at-Home Mom? Do What You are Already Doing to Earn Extra Money**

The Pew Research Institute tells us that just over 20% of US moms stayed at home in the 1990s. That number was up to almost 30% in 2017. More moms are deciding to stay-at-home, for a number of reasons. Current research also shows us the number one concern among most families is finances. This means that stay-at-home moms, whether married, single or somewhere in between, may have problems making ends meet.

**One way a busy stay-at-home mom can make some extra money, sometimes a considerable amount is to do what she is already doing each day ... watching kids.**

There are plenty of two-income families these days. Each day those two breadwinners leave the home, and this means that any children who are not old enough to take care of themselves or not attending school must be dropped off at some type of daycare facility. You have already become very good at watching your own children while taking care of your other daily responsibilities, so why not hire out your skills to moms and dads who cannot be home to watch their kids?

### **Why Someone May Choose You over a Traditional Daycare Provider**

Studies show that children who attend daycare facilities with large groups of kids suffer at school. This is probably because the caregivers don't have as much time to spend with individual kids in a one-on-one basis because they have so many children under their charge. Your friends, family members, former colleagues, and coworkers would probably be delighted to have you watch their children rather than strangers because they know who they're dealing with.

Additionally, you could charge significantly less than a professional facility and still make quite a good living. This means your friends save money, you make an extra \$250 or \$500 or more each week, and you are doing basically the same thing you are doing right now. This is an excellent win-win for everyone involved, including the children.

## **Legal Considerations**

If your kids already spend time with the children of a friend, not having a recognized childcare license might not be a problem. A good friend who has seen and respected your parenting skills may be happy to leave her child or children with you every now and again, and she may not care if you are officially licensed. After all, you are already raising your child, and as you know, there is no instruction manual or certification that comes with being a mom. On the job training is the best.

However, you can make more money and avoid legal problems if you become certified. In the United States becoming a licensed childcare provider means following the practices set forth by the Child Care and Early Years Act. Insurance is an additional but minimal cost, and once you obtain the appropriate certification, you can expect to receive \$35 to \$45 a day per child for your day care services. Watch just a couple of children and your stay-at-home mom skills pay off to the tune of \$400 per week, with weekends off.