

She gave the baby condensed milk

Some mothers have all the luck — they'll find a caregiver who's an instant mesh — kind, loving, good with kids and nurturing. Others will go through many misses in their quest to find someone who can adequately care for their children — and some of the stories are scary.

Below some mothers share their worst babysitter experiences.

My daughter was five months old and still on breast milk, which I explained to the sitter — a college student — was in the freezer ready for reheating. When I returned from work on the first night she was working I realised none of the milk had been touched. She was busy on YouTube when I asked what was up. She: "That stuff was milk? Didn't know. So I mixed some tinned milk when the baby was hungry." She had made condensed milk for my exclusively breastfed baby, because obviously she was too preoccupied with herself to listen when I was telling her about the frozen breast milk.

— Tanya

I found this girl through a service recommended by a friend. They were supposed to be professionally screened and everything. When I came home my poor baby was miserable. The nanny gave me a sound lecture, about how she'd "tried for hours" to "stimulate" the baby — mind you, this was a four month old — and the baby didn't want to be stimulated. She told me that my baby was "slow" and needed to be checked. Then she launched into a discussion about how she was doing early childhood training, but I showed her the door.

— Adrienne

This place had advertised in the papers, they had college students available for late night babysitting. I'm a single mom and I work late hours, so I thanked my lucky stars. I used them for a few weeks — two girls would alternate. Well, one night after midnight I got a call for 'Helen' from some man. And when I did get my phone bill, it had hundreds of dollars in charges for the many, many calls she made to men from my phone.

— Vanessa

I left my son with a neighbour who had volunteered to watch him because we worked late hours. It was going well, until one day she told me that she had something to tell me, but had been afraid to tell me before. She told me that she had briefly left my son alone to go to a nearby shop, and while at the shop she was surprised by my son — 2 1/2 — pulling at her dress. He had got tired of waiting, and had found the keys to the grille, opened the padlock and walked on a busy street to get to the shop. Even today I panic at the thought of what could have happened to him.

— Sophia

I had this sitter — nice girl — who lived in a tense area. I'd get home late and sometimes I'd drop her home. I was scared to do that, so I tried getting home earlier and would drop her at the nearest safe point to home. One day she called to ask if it was OK if her boyfriend came when it was near time to leave, and he would take her home. I said sure. Except that for a few weeks after, he'd come every day. One day I came home earlier than usual and he was there, eating my food and chatting on my computer. Turns out he had been coming as soon as I left in the evenings, and they were playing house with my apartment and child.

— Catherine

Got more horror stories. Let us hear from you at chatboutjamaica@gmail.com