

Everything you ever wanted to know about nannying in the U.K.

Types of jobs available in England

There are two main types of positions for people with child care experience.

- Nanny - Sole Charge
- &
- Mothers Help

Nanny - Sole charge

To be eligible for a sole charge nanny position you require both qualifications and practical experience, or some very solid child care full time experience, for example - a full-time nanny position. As a sole charge nanny, you would be responsible for the running of the household as well as the children. The parents would both work quite long days, but usually take over when they arrive home. These positions can be live-in or out, and the characteristics required are common sense, organisation and independence as well as confidence and maturity.

Nursery duties are comprised of cleaning up after the children, doing their laundry; school runs, supervising homework and bath-time. You would have to prepare basic and proper meals for the children and keep the house tidy. These duties are in addition to entertaining the children in the holidays, after school activities, dentist and doctor visits, grocery shopping for the whole family and buying and mending school uniforms and clothes etc. This type of position is very rewarding for the right person, Likely salary would be app stg 180-250+ per week for a live-in position, more for a live-out position, depending on your experience and qualifications.

Mothers Help

This job is also rewarding for those on a working holiday who don't have a lot of experience and no qualifications. The pay is still quite high, stg 150-200 per week live-in. Although the mother usually doesn't work full-time she may have her own business or just be out a lot of the time, or she may also just need a great helping hand around the place. The nanny in this case helps the Mum with whatever she does. It could be anything from taking them to school to staying in while one of them is asleep, and catching up on the ironing, You will find that the mother likes to include you in outings with the children, it gives her a chance to relax a little. Usually these Mum's have 2-3 children, and with both of you sharing the responsibilities life is a little easier. General tidiness, after yourself and the children is expected in all jobs. An untidy nanny won't last long in this field of work. Once the mother trusts you, you will find she will go out quite a bit and do her own thing while you run the family. Average hours of live-in positions are 12 hours per day, from the time the children have to get up for school until after bath-time. As a general rule most jobs are week-days only, some families require help in weekends for which time in lieu would be accrued to be taken later. Most jobs include 2-3 weeks paid holiday per year as well as statutory days. The employer pays your tax so any salary quoted is net of tax. (Yours to keep.)

Advantages of living in

You don't have to pay rent, phone rental, power, gas, or travel costs. The fridge always has proper food in it, (instead of baked beans and 2 minute noodles). You would be living in a nicer area than you could ever afford to rent in, and probably driving a nice car. Living costs are extremely high in the UK. So if your intent is to save money then this is your best option. It's amazing how food and bills can mount up, and all of a sudden you have none of your savings left.

Disadvantages of living in

Unless you are provided with your own separate living area, it can be difficult to have a lot of privacy. Unfortunately, children don't know about 'time off'. They would like to keep talking to you even more, when you decide to go into your room after work. Don't despair - the families are used to having nannies around and they will help make allowances and rules for the children. There has to be a little give and take of course, but perhaps if you offered to work longer one day, if the mother was extra tired, or tell her to have a lie in, you will find next time you plan a weekend away you will probably get Friday afternoon off in return. Remember you get what you give, always.

How is nannying in the U.K different to NZ?

The safety of children is a major concern; the population size alone of England is enough reason to be extra cautious when supervising them in public areas. You will find the parents are very much tied up with their own lives and it may be difficult for you to not feel neglected or unimportant. You need a strong sense of who you are. This and the ability to communicate and be assertive are definite musts.

Position contract lengths

Most employers are looking for a minimum commitment of 12 months. You will generally be asked to sign a contract. Mother's Help positions are a little more flexible. It is in the best interest for the children that a nanny can stay for a reasonable length of time, as they do get very attached. Short term work is available, but not as common, so your choices would be more limited.

Summary

If you are flexible and not too fussy on what you want, we will be able to find you a great job fairly quickly. There are positions available all year around. 99% of our nannies are placed with a family before they leave NZ. We have a waiting list for our Nannies. If you are willing to give nannying your best shot and go with an open mind and be prepared to adapt to their way of life to an extent, then you will be a great nanny, and have a wonderful time. There are so many people travelling over there that there is never a shortage of new friends to meet. It's a wonderful way to make money and to experience life in England.

What if I don't have any qualifications?

If you feel that you have a lot to offer children but have only really done babysitting, we have just the course for you! Written and developed by Early Childhood Education Tutors, the HATNZ Course can be taken by correspondence so you can still keep saving and study in your spare time. It covers all aspects of child care and development. Everything you need to develop that extra confidence and knowledge with children, as well as practical ideas you can take away with you. See the enclosed brochure.

Visas and Work Permits

There are two main ways New Zealanders can legally work in the UK. If you are lucky enough to have English born grandparents, you can apply for UK Ancestry. This entitles you to work and live there for 4 years, and costs about \$221 from the British High Commission. You will need your relevant grandparent's birth certificate and your parent's birth and marriage certificate, and the application takes 3-4 weeks.

If you fall in to the main category of others who don't have British Blood, then you will need to apply for a 2 year working holiday visa. Application forms can be obtained from most travel agents, and you will need proof of the equivalent of £1000 (about \$3000) in the bank, and a one way ticket. This is £1000 less than normal because we find you work before you go so you have a job to arrive to. You also have to be under 30 years old, single with no dependents. This permit takes about a month if they are busy, 2 days if they are not. You must also state that you have no intention of staying longer than two years. This costs about \$221. You can then stay in the UK for 2 years from your first day of entry. You have six months to enter the UK after the issue of the Working Holiday Visa. You can now download forms from the British High Commission off their website - via ours - www.nanniesabroad.co.nz - UK section.

Contact details for the British High Commission are; 44 Hill Street, Wellington
Postal address; P.O. Box 1812 Wellington. Ph (9.30am-12pm) 04 495-0889 and fax 04 471-1974.

Nannies Abroad's role

We provide a service for people already planning a working holiday who would like to have a position arranged before they leave. You will need about \$2000 for a one-way airfare. We also provide hints on opening bank accounts, what to organise before you leave, what to take, and most importantly what to leave at home. Most nannies are pre-placed before you leave NZ so that you will have a family to collect you from the airport. If not we can advise you on the best way to get to a lovely B&B very near our office.

Registration is \$50 and must be paid at registration time. Payment of this fee shows us your commitment to being placed, as we will be investing a lot of money and time in finding you the perfect position.

We have an office here and in the UK, but you must register here before you leave. You will attend an interview at a time suitable to yourself. We check all your references here and supply our UK Office with your file complete with reference and background checks. Your file is then shown to potential family matches, who will arrange interview times with our UK Office for you. Most families will call you from the UK so you will have work before you leave. Due to our experience in nannying over in the UK, we place you in nice areas with nice families and good pay. Our UK office checks out the families and most of our positions are purely through word of mouth. We have developed a reputation for providing genuine, friendly, stable, hardworking nannies, and get a lot of wonderful positions offered. Once you have been interviewed and your references have been checked, we can get to work to find a job. We will not intimidate you or make you feel uncomfortable; we are here to help, so if there is anything that you need to know that hasn't been covered please give us a call.

Nannies Abroad prides itself at being the longest running purely International NZ Nanny Agency
Our clients know it, and you will too. We have hundreds of families waiting for you!