

17 March, 2005

To Whom It May Concern,

Kerry Jenkins has been in our employ as a nanny for the last two months, and has proven to be invaluable, going far beyond my expectations as to what a nanny could offer.

Kerry has had sole charge of my daughters Abigail (age 3) and Honor (age 3 months). Her duties have included the usual bevy of dressing, bathing, making nutritious meals, changing nappies, and taking Abigail to nursery school. Beyond this, she has successfully dealt with Honor's acid reflux condition, has taught Abigail gross and fine motor skills with different art projects, has worked on letters and reading, plays games of imagination, and isn't afraid to get down on the floor for piggy back rides. And in all their games, Kerry has included Honor, making the transition from only child to big sister easier for Abigail. She's even attempted to potty train Abigail, something my daughter is reluctant to do, but Kerry has made it fun.

In disciplinary matters, Kerry's approach is to talk to Abigail, explaining the feelings that result from her actions, thus encouraging her emotional development. Kerry communicates very well with both children and adults. With the children, she is patient yet firm, loving, and attentive. Three year olds can be quite fickle in their affection, but Abigail has told me on several occasions that she loves Kerry and wants her to come home with us to Los Angeles.

Kerry takes pride in her work, always arriving on time, yet she isn't a clock watcher. She stays until the job is done, whether it's giving Abigail a bath, giving her dinner, or finishing a game. This can amount to an extra 15 minutes, or an hour and a half, yet she has refused to be compensated for this extra time. She has kept them on a schedule, yet has been flexible enough to realize that on some days, Abigail needs a nap, and on other days doesn't.

Her flexibility has extended to me as well. As a writer, I'm sometimes at home. She easily joins in with whatever game Abigail and I are playing, while respecting my need to work, transitioning the girls to their mommy-free day. There are no tears when I leave, only happy shouts when I return in the evening. I feel she genuinely cares about my children, going out of her way to provide a safe, secure, loving environment, and I know they love her because their eyes light up when she arrives in the morning.

In addition to superior childcare, Kerry is also very conscientious about our household, tidying up toys, the

kitchen, whatever room they've been playing in, and keeping track of money given her for groceries, laundry, and activities. She is also conscientious about the need for consistency, babysitting for us on weekends, sometimes suggesting it herself so that my husband and I can have time alone together.

My greatest regret is that we didn't find Kerry when we arrived in London six months ago, and that we can't take her back to California with us.

If any additional information is wanted or needed, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paula Sewell

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