

A number of families in a community decide to share babysitting among themselves without exchanging money. They've got a...

Babysitting Cooperative

Advantages:

- Neighbors get to know one another and create stronger community
- Children can become close with many families in their neighborhood
- Parents expand options available for babysitting
- No money is spent on babysitting
- Parents get some free time

There are a variety of co-op systems. Some work with point systems, some with secretaries. Here are examples of co-op systems:

30-point start secretary system*

- Each member begins with 30-points and is charged one point for one child per hour.
- Members who babysit earn points.
- A secretary subtracts points for using babysitting and adds points for providing babysitting to the members' accounts.

Zero-point start system*

- Each member earns when they babysit or uses points when they use a babysitter.
- A secretary adds to or subtracts from members' accounts.

* In each of these systems the "secretary" is paid points for keeping track of members accounts.

Card system

- A member makes cards to be traded.
- Each member receives cards which they spend like money, paying to whoever babysits.
- Once a member has paid out a set number of cards, they must replenish their supply by babysitting.
- If a member collects an abundance of cards, they are urged to get others to offer more babysitting services.

A neighborhood group can determine how large the co-op will be, who can join, if young people can be involved and overall how the co-op will work.

Co-ops are great because parents can work together to provide free babysitting virtually whenever it is needed!

