

## **Is your child old enough to babysit? (Even his younger siblings?)**

Deciding if a child is ready to babysit is not about a specific age but a stage in development. There are lots of things to consider. Ask yourself:

- Is your child capable enough to handle the responsibilities of caring for a younger child?
- Is your child able to stay in control of herself and in control of younger children? For example can she handle an infant who won't stop crying?
- Is your child able to follow safety rules?
- Is your child able to handle typical things that can happen such as telephone calls or someone at the door?
- Would your child feel comfortable alone with his siblings (without adults)?
- Does your child want to watch his siblings?
- Does your child enjoy younger children? Do younger children like your child?
- How do your children get along? Do the younger children listen to the older ones?
- What resources are available (neighbors, nearby relatives) to help your child if needed?
- How long will you be away?
- Will your child need to prepare meals or snacks?
- What are the house rules about visitors, activities, discipline and safety? Will your children follow these rules?