

Alex Dalton, director of [nannysharers.co.uk](http://nannysharers.co.uk), explains how the website can put families in touch, with a view to sharing a nanny. She reveals the benefits of nanny sharing to nannies, parents and children.

Websites

# Nannies who share...

The escalating cost of childcare these days is well documented. Surprisingly, what is less well-known is the phenomenal and correlated rise in nannysharing. This cost-effective solution is perhaps one of the best kept secrets of today, but the word is rapidly spreading via new national websites, such as [www.thenannysharers.co.uk](http://www.thenannysharers.co.uk), which aims to match one local family up with another, with a view to them sharing a nanny and the related costs.

Employing a nanny is a popular childcare choice; having a qualified and/or experienced carer whose sole purpose is to look after your children on your terms and in your own home is very appealing. Parents, even though they are out at work, still get to set the parameters of their child's day; play-dates and activities can be easily accommodated and parents can rest assured that problem hotspots, like meal times and homework, are being carefully monitored.

Yet when a full-time, live-out nanny can cost up to £500 a week before tax and national insurance, this form of childcare is too pricey for many families, and besides, not everyone needs a nanny full-time.

So, one way round the cost is to go for a nannyshare. One nanny looks after the children of more than one family, either at the same time or on different days. In either share arrangement, the costs of having a nanny are dramatically reduced.

Historically though, it has been quite difficult to set up a share. Where do you start? How do you find a family to share with? How exactly should you split the costs? What about holidays, contracts, toys, food?

[Thenannysharers.co.uk](http://www.thenannysharers.co.uk), set up by two former nanny sharers, is designed to address these issues and help parents realise that finding a share and making it work needn't be a headache. The huge response to the site is testimony itself to the

increasing demand for flexible, affordable childcare that sharing a nanny can provide. Nanny sharing can also create new friendships between the parents and the children, and let's not forget the nanny who in turn gets a better paid, more varied and hopefully more satisfying job!

[Thenannysharers.co.uk](http://www.thenannysharers.co.uk) also works closely with nanny agencies across the country, all of which are experiencing an ever growing demand for nannies who can handle a share.

What about from the nanny's perspective though? Surely the drawbacks of working for two families outweigh any benefits that may be had? As owners of [thenannysharers.co.uk](http://www.thenannysharers.co.uk), myself and Theresa Byrne, have spoken to families and nannies alike and they believe nannies have as much to gain from a share as the families they are working with, so if you are considering taking on a nanny share have a look at the top five reasons why nannies also stand to reap considerable benefits from a share arrangement:

## Financial benefits:

The increased responsibility and potential workload involved in nannying within a share has its significant financial rewards. A nanny can reasonably expect to earn up to 20 per cent more than the average daily or weekly rate of a nanny working for only for just one family.

## Improving the workload:

Caring for the children from two families does not necessarily double the workload. A lot of nannies in shares find that the children will play among themselves with their new found friends, so physically freeing up the nanny to perform other tasks, such as various nursery-related duties or food preparation. Meal times themselves may also be less fraught, as



young children are more likely to sample foods that they see their peers tucking into.

## Job satisfaction:

A share generally offers more variety and challenges. Children varying in age from two different families enhance the daily routine and virtually guarantee that no two days will be the same for the nanny. Caring for a newborn will provide different challenges to helping a five-year-old with their homework, for example.

## CV enhancing:

A share on a nanny's CV demonstrates that the candidate in question has proven themselves to be flexible, open-minded and responsible, as well as showing that they have the ability to multi-task and take the initiative.

## Continuity:

Often when a family's personal circumstances change (such as when the children reach school-age, for example) they may no longer be able to justify employing their current nanny, however well-loved she or he may be. A share can allow the nanny to stay with a family that they are happy with, by supplementing the reduced hours elsewhere, ensuring continuity with the original family.

Visit: [www.nannysharers.co.uk](http://www.nannysharers.co.uk)