

Wandsworth Borough News

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Nannies care and share alike



Finding: a nanny you can trust at a price you can afford is a problem facing many working mothers, but luckily help is at hand thanks to website **thenannysharers.co.uk**.

Theresa Byrne, 36, and Alex Dalton, 35, teamed up three years ago to organise a nanny share.

Mums and dads can register on the site, post their childcare needs, then search by postcode for other families who are looking to share a nanny.

The first 1,000 people who register can do so for free. After that a fee of about £25 will be charged.

Two Wandsworth mums have teamed up to share one of the most precious commodities around - good nannies!

Theresa Byrne, 36, and Alex Dalton, 35, decided to set up **thenannysharers.co.uk** after they organised a nanny share with each other three years ago.

Alex, a television producer from Southfields, said: "I decided to go back to work when my daughter Isabelle was six months old. I didn't want a childminder because I wanted a bit more focused care for her. I looked into nurseries but they are so expensive in Wandsworth.

"A nanny was the perfect solution but it was too expensive. A friend said I should consider sharing one, but finding someone who lived nearby and also wanted to share a nanny was really difficult."

Alex said she scoured local newsagents' windows, gym notice boards and small ads in baby magazines until she eventually found Theresa.

The pair worked out a schedule so the nanny picked up Isabelle and took her to Theresa's house where she looked after both her and Theresa's son Daniel, who is now six.

Alex said: "It really brought Isabelle on because he was a bit older. "She gained a lot of confidence and he was very protective of her. It also taught them to share. I think children are much better if they don't think they're the centre of the universe.

"It was also good for Theresa and I because we were both working mums so we could share our concerns about parenting issues. We talked for ages about nanny sharing and what we could do to help other people and now we've finally set this up."

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Alex added: "Some nanny agencies charge £1,000 for finding a family a nanny so this really is a bargain - especially for the first 1,000 people."

The website will not vet nannies, but will team families up so they can either search for one together, or split the cost of an existing nanny.

Visit www.thenannysharers.co.uk

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