



## **Understanding the contrasting roles of a nanny and a nanny housekeeper.**

Hiring a nanny can be an incredible solution for parents who are constantly juggling their busy schedules and feeling overwhelmed. It provides them with the peace of mind that their children are in safe hands and receiving the necessary care and attention, alleviating a great deal of stress. Nevertheless, it is important to understand that while a versatile nanny can assist with various tasks to support a working family, there are certain responsibilities that fall outside their scope.

It's crucial to acknowledge that the main priority of a nanny's role should revolve around your children. As nannies become integrated into the family dynamic, it's easy to overlook their expertise and the fact that they are performing a specialized job. However, if you desire a lasting and harmonious relationship with your nanny, it's essential to maintain fair and realistic expectations. So, what can you anticipate from your nanny? Which responsibilities should you handle personally? And what sets a nanny apart from a nanny housekeeper?

### **A clear understanding of the duties of the job**

It is essential to have a clear understanding of the responsibilities you expect from your nanny when you first hire them. Creating an employment contract is a great way to outline these duties, and working with a reputable agency can be advantageous in this process. They can assist you in preparing a draft contract and provide guidance on customizing it to meet your specific requirements. In fact, we recommend determining the specific parameters of the job before you even start interviewing candidates. If you want your nanny to help with homework, arrange play dates, and take the children on outings, make sure to communicate these expectations in the job description and subsequently include them in the employment contract. By doing so, you can expect your nanny to make every effort to fulfill these agreed-upon duties.



## **Remember, a Nanny isn't a superhero who can do everything.**

It's common for nannies to lend a hand with some household chores, but it's essential to remember that their primary responsibility is caring for your children.

They are not hired as cleaners or servants. Right from the start, it's crucial to establish clear communication and expectations.

Your nanny's main focus should revolve around your children's well-being and meeting their daily needs.

By acknowledging and appreciating this, you can cultivate a strong and lasting relationship with your nanny.

This will not only benefit you but also your children, who will thrive under the care of a content and dedicated nanny.

Avoiding constantly changing or unrealistic expectations will contribute to a positive and fulfilling work dynamic.

## **The Everyday Responsibilities of a Nanny**

Caring for infants – changing nappies, preparing bottles, introducing solid foods  
Giving baths to the kids. Assisting the children in getting dressed  
Toilet training young children. Assisting the children with their reading, writing, and homework  
Teaching the children new skills like tying shoelaces, brushing teeth, using utensils. Planning enjoyable and age-appropriate activities like arts and crafts, cooking  
Accompanying children to activities such as swimming, football, dance classes, music.

Arranging playdates. Taking care of the children when they are unwell, including administering appropriate medication.

Engaging in indoor and outdoor games.

Escorting the children to the park, museum, library.





## Nanny Nursery Duties

Nannies have a range of responsibilities beyond just taking care of children. These additional tasks, often referred to as "nursery duties," are an integral part of their job. Nannies are expected to ensure that the home remains in the same condition as when they arrived. Some of these duties may include:

1. Making and changing the children's beds, as well as keeping their rooms clean and organized.
2. Cleaning and sterilizing baby bottles.
3. Maintaining a clean, tidy, and organized playroom.
4. Taking care of the children's laundry and ironing.
5. Preparing and cooking nutritious meals and snacks for the children, and cleaning up afterward.
6. Cleaning up after arts, crafts, and cooking activities.
7. Ensuring the bathroom is clean and tidy after use by the children.
8. Packing packed lunches or snacks for activities, trips, or outings.
9. Assisting with packing for the children when they go on trips.
10. Putting away the children's books, clothes, and toys after use.
11. Vacuuming the areas where the children have been playing or eating at the end of the day.

Nannies take pride in maintaining a clean and organized environment for the children they care for, ensuring their well-being and comfort.



## Extra Housekeeping Duties

In addition to their childcare responsibilities, nannies may be willing to take on extra housekeeping duties, as long as they have the time and are fairly compensated.

These tasks are usually done when the children are at school or nursery, and can help boost the nanny's salary.

However, it's important to be realistic about what can be accomplished within the available time and to clearly outline these duties in the contract.

Remember, the primary focus should always be on the children's care.

For instance, if the kids are on school holidays, the nanny may not be able to complete as many housekeeping tasks.

Failing to handle these additional responsibilities properly could leave your nanny feeling overwhelmed and undervalued.

Some examples of these extra duties, which fall under the "nanny housekeeper" role, could include:

1. Taking care of all the beds in the household
2. Handling all the laundry and ironing tasks (some nannies are okay with washing the parents' clothes along with the children's, but ironing them alone can be quite a demanding task)
3. Cleaning the bathrooms that are not used by the children
4. Preparing and cooking meals and snacks for the entire family or any guests, excluding the children, on a regular basis
5. Running various errands such as dry cleaning, grocery shopping, and going to the post office
6. Organizing, vacuuming, or dusting rooms other than the children's bedrooms and playrooms
7. Purchasing supplies or clothes for the family
8. Taking care of the house or pets while the family is away
9. Providing care for a sick family member
10. Communicating with tradespeople, answering phone calls, and handling postal tasks.





## Extra Housekeeping Duties

In a nutshell, nannies often go the extra mile out of sheer practicality. For instance, they might take the initiative to include the parent's laundry along with the children's. However, it's important to remember that it's a give-and-take relationship.

Mutual respect and understanding are key in building a strong bond between the nanny and employer. If these acts of kindness and practicality become expected or taken for granted by the employer, it can lead to resentment and relationship problems.

Have you discussed how household duties will be divided and clearly communicated your nanny's responsibilities beyond childcare?

The definition of "light housekeeping" can vary from person to person. By clearly outlining the expectations in the contract, you can avoid any misunderstandings.

Don't forget to show appreciation to your nanny for their dedication to taking care of you and your family. I