



Tuesday, June 17, 2008
Tech reporter Doug Delony

Finding a Reliable Sitter for Kids, Elderly Goes to the Web

Pattie Shieh Moms and dads certainly know it can be very, very difficult to find a reliable babysitter.

Tom Zizka Oh, so true. If you're just dying for a night out, my tech guy, Doug Delony, has the website that might be for you. He's in the newsroom -- hey, Doug.

Doug Delony Hey Tom. It goes beyond babysitters as well, it also has tutors and people that care for the elderly, so you'll definitely want to check out today's website. This website is called Sittercity. It's a website that offers an extensive directory of people who care for children, pets, the elderly or even your house while you're away. The site has hundreds and thousands of babysitters nationwide and hundreds right here in Houston.

So how can you trust them? The operators of the website say they use a four-step screening process that includes references, user reviews and feedback -- kind of like eBay feedback -- and personal interviews, and free access to background checks.

To use the web site, you just tell them what kind of service you need and give it your ZIP code. It will show you the profile of people in your area, including their age and distance from you.

Of course if you're a sitter, you can list yourself on the website and you can do that for free as well. The website even has a section for tutors for those of you with students who want extra help outside the classroom.

Find this website on ours -- I'm going to post the link on our blogs tab of our website, myfoxboston.com.

And Tom and Sibila, like I said, it gives a profile of the sitters and it goes beyond that, actually. It has video interviews as well. You can ask questions and they will respond in the form of videos, very interesting aspect there.

Tom Zizka Doug, can you hear us?

Doug Delony Oh, I'm sorry! Hi, Pattie, good to see you today!

Pattie Shieh Thanks, Doug.

Doug Delony I'm just going to quit.

Pattie Shieh You know what? If you cant find a babysitter on the website, just call Doug. He apparently needs a job now. Thanks, tech guy, thanks.