Lunchbox Theatre created the following *Childcare Information for Visiting Artists* in 2022 as part of their Balancing Act Level UP! Pilot Project. The Information provided in the resource is not up-to-date (e.g. childcare costs have changed since 2022), but is meant to offer inspiration to those interested in creating a similar resource.

Please credit Lunchbox Theatre and Balancing Act
if you use, cite, or share information from this resource.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these materials, please contact Balancing Act at balancingact@theatredirect.ca.

EST. 1975
LUNCHBOX
THEATRE

BALANCING
ACT

# Lunchbox Theatre
# Childcare Information for Visiting Artists

## Childcare Providers in Calgary

### 1) Event-Based Babysitting Agencies

The following are professional childcare agencies that specialize in remote childminding services.

**My Hotel Sitter:** https://myhotelsitter.com/

- Fully licensed and insured
- Offers rates of $35/hour for up to five children
- Can provide toys, games, crafts, and movies upon request
- Employs a roster of early-childhood development students and professional nannies with criminal background checks, safety training, and reference checks
- Provides services everywhere around the Bow Valley region
- Contact by phone at (403) 762-3661 or email at info@myhotelsitter.com

**Heritage Nanny:** https://heritagenanny.com/child-care-services/event-childcare/

- Operates offices across Canada, including in Calgary
- Has a rigorously vetted network of providers, with less than 4% of provider applicants being selected for their roster
- Great reviews from clients
- Contact by phone at (587) 355-7800 or email at info@heritagenanny.com

### 2) Freelance Caregiver Networks

The following websites are designed to connect caregivers with babysitters/childminders directly.

**Birdie Break:** www.birdiebreak.com

- An app based service that connects childcare providers with clients needing care
- Allows for bookings of providers up to two months in advance
- Specializes in providing high quality professional childcare providers to working professionals
- Payments made through secure third party app
- Locally created by two women who work in the arts/events
- Fees range from $18 to $25 per hour, with a two hour minimum booking
- The app requires all providers to pass an internal screening process, have CPR/choking training, and have a clear Police Information Check and Vulnerable Sector Check
- Like Uber, for babysitters

**Care:** www.care.com

- This website offers an online membership service to access a network of available caregivers in your area
- Includes a set of thorough Safety Guide instructions on how to select and engage a caregiver from the service, with tips on finding the right fit for your needs
- Profiles include verified identities, references, reviews, documents related to training and qualifications, but some legwork is required to double check these credentials
- Signup is free for a basic account, and a “Premium” account costs (with 20% promotional discount):
    - $41.16 / one month
    - $73.08 / three months
    - $88.45 / 12 months
- Sitter fees range from $18 to $25 per hour on average
- Users are able to post available jobs or search caregiver profiles to get in contact with candidates directly
- The site can be used to fill recurring needs or try for a one-time engagement
- Like Tinder, for babysitters