



Maynard Family Association Babysitting Co-op Fact Sheet

How does the baby sitting co-op work?

The Maynard Family Association babysitting coop is designed for 20 families. These families exchange "chips" for sitting services (typically 4 chips per hour). Our group has by-laws that detail the specifics of running the co-op and being a co-op member. All members will receive a copy of this upon enrollment.

What are the benefits of the co-op?

The co-op allows...

- 1) time for parents to attend appointments, run errands
- 2) couples to spend more quality time together
- 3) on-on-one time for a parent/child while other siblings are being cared for
- 4) friendships to blossom for the children and parents
- 5) assurance that your child is being cared for by an experienced, nurturing parent

Who is eligible to join?

All co-op families must reside in Maynard and be registered members of the Maynard Family Association (MFA). Also, the youngest child cannot be more than 6 years old.

How do member families get to know one another?

In addition to other MFA sponsored activities the co-op plans four events each year where member families meet and socialize.

Are sits restricted to the daytime only?

No, the co-op is for all families whether you stay at home or work. Members exchange sits that work for both parties. There are both working parents and stay at home parents enrolled in the co-op. Prior to joining you should consider whether you would be able to do the same amount of sits as you project you will request.

Are sits done at my home or the requestor's home?

Can my child(ren) attend sits with me?

For the convenience of the sitter daytime sits are typically performed at your own home with your own child(ren). If you accept an evening sit, you will typically go to the requestor's home without your child(ren). Different arrangements may be made with the mutual consent of both parties.

How do I request a sit?

The co-op meets on a quarterly basis. Prior to the meeting the co-op chairperson will send an email asking members for 1) any sit requests and 2) a count of chips. A list of sit requests will be distributed at the meeting and members will volunteer to for sits that fit into their personal schedule. If a sit is not filled at the meeting an email will be sent out to all members in the event that someone not in attendance at the meeting can fulfill the sit request.

In addition members may send out an email to all co-op members requesting a sit (a contact list of current co-op members will be provided upon a family's enrollment).

What are my responsibilities once I accept a sit request?

- 1) If the requestor is not in attendance at the meeting you must call or email them to notify them that you have volunteered for the sit.
- 2) If unable to fulfill a scheduled sit (in cases other than an emergency), the sitter shall provide a substitute from the membership if the sit is within the next 24 hours, or make compensation with chips.

Can I cancel a sit request?

If a requestor cancels a sit request within 24 hours of the sit for her own personal convenience (i.e. NOT if there is an illness, the event is cancelled etc.), the sitter shall receive one half of the expected chips.

How do chips work?

Once you join the co-op you will receive a total of 100 chips.

Four chips per hour shall be given by the requestor to the sitter (1 chip per 15 minutes). If a member should go below 70 chips every effort should be made to volunteer for sits in order to increase the family's chip count. It is a requirement when a family leaves the co-op to pay back a total of 100 chips. If a member should acquire more than 150 chips they should allow other members to volunteer for sits.

What do I need to do to join?

Please contact a co-op chairperson to discuss your interest in the co-op. New members will be enrolled on a first come first served basis and if necessary a waiting list will be maintained.

The following will be required for a family's initial enrollment*:

1. Current membership in the Maynard Family Association
2. A completed Co-op enrollment form
3. An initial (*one time only*) fee of \$7.00
4. Annual dues of \$3.00 (may be pro-rated if joining later in the year)
5. 2 chips for each of the two co-op chair persons (may also be pro-rated depending upon time of enrollment)

*dues and chips may be prorated depending upon time of enrollment (the co-op year begins Sept. 1st)

What is required of me once I join the co-op?

All co-op members must attend a minimum of 2 out of 4 quarterly meetings and 2 out of 4 social events. Other requirements are also detailed in the co-op by laws.

Contact Information:

If you are interested in joining the co-op or would like to find out more information please contact Kristy Bouley at k.bouley@verizon.net or (978) 461-0408.

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