

Tips for Travel with Nanny

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Many employers opt to take their nannies on vacation. While these vacations are wonderful opportunities to get to know your employee better we at American Nanny Company offer some guidelines to help make the vacation smoother for you and your nanny. **The following are some helpful tips:**

1. Even though you are away from your normal routines and schedule, **ongoing communication** is still a very critical component of the professional and personal relationship with your nanny. Remember to keep the channels of communication open whether on Nantucket for a week or southern California for a month. It helps to schedule a daily talk or briefing so that your employee has an opportunity to know what is expected and to give and receive feedback.
2. **Delineate expectations and hours** so that your nanny can understand responsibilities, duties, work scheduling and free time available. Take this step prior to arriving at your destination. While mutual flexibility is expected on vacation giving your nanny a sense of what she/he will be doing, when they will be on and off will allay conflict, anxiety and frustration.
3. **Division of Labor:** For many employers vacation is a unique situation in which you will overlap on an every day and consistent basis with employees who are accustomed to working solo while you are out of the home. This can create confusion (and in worse case scenarios- chaos!) Therefore it is imperative to review and discuss the roles you will be play vis a vis the children and light housekeeping in this special situation of overlapping adults. Another important and related issue that might arise as a conflict between parent and nanny is that of limit setting with the children. Who will handle limit-setting when all are cooped up together? Try to get clear on these issues and avoid the embarrassment of a nanny feeling a lack of support. Consistency here is key for the children.
4. **Have a good time and have a few laughs!** Take advantage of the time to relax, explore and have fun with your nanny. Include her/him on the excitement and pleasure of the new surroundings. Make sure that they know where they are and how to get around.
5. **Encourage your nanny to pitch in as needed.** Vacations can sometimes be stressful. Let your nanny know that you will sincerely appreciate any pitching in as a valued adult and member of the team. As employers and parents you can model this by also pitching in.

6 Have private moments: Sometimes being thrown together in a “cozy little cabin” can have its moments. Make sure that you make it clear that there will be mutual respect for private time and space. We all need psychic and physical space on vacation. If you feel that you are getting cranky or cramped take some time out and ask the nanny for help. Also make sure that your nanny is not feeling too cramped either.

7. Don't let your nanny get dejected because the children who are usually all over her/him when you are at work full time suddenly drop them like a wet dish rag for precious time with you. This is usually temporary and natural. Make sure that they do not take this rejection personally.