

Babysitting 101 Plus

About the Instructor & More

About the Instructor:

Hi Everyone! My name is Barri Zehner, BSN, RN. I am the CEO, CFO, Creator & Developer, Secretary, Teacher, Engineer, Technical Department, Materials Manager, Quality Assurance Manager, Editor, Marketing Department, and Housekeeper at Babysitting 101 Plus! I'm sure I forgot something in there. I am a bit of a control freak, and perfectionist, and this course is my passion. I've been approached by numerous people telling me to take it to the next level, but I'm afraid it will lose something if I do, so I have chosen not to — yet. Probably a pretty stupid financial move on my part - but I don't do this for the money, I do it because I LOVE doing this class!

My other “real” job is as a Registered Nurse. I work at Northside Hospital Forsyth on the Oncology floor. It is a very very demanding job, both physically and emotionally, but it is also very rewarding. Lots of tears are shed there. I do everything there too (or so it seems), but I am typically working as a Charge RN, or staff RN, or Educator. I have won the GREAT AMBASSADOR award through the Northside Hospital system - the highest award they offer to the one employee who represents their vision of the ideal employee/representative of their company — quite the honor - a decision made by the administrators of the facility. I have a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and a degree in Early Childhood Education. My experience with kids is vast - as a mom, volunteer at the schools, and teaching. I've been a Certified CPR instructor with the AHA since 2006. I know how to teach people with all levels of knowledge and learning needs. I have developed numerous training programs over the years and pride myself on treating everyone with courtesy and respect no matter their “ranking” in society. I think the most important tool we carry with us is our SMILE and it is my goal to make one person smile every day. Why? Just because I like making people feel good, and in turn that makes me feel good. It's the little things that matter. One thing I've learned as my job on the Oncology Unit ——— cherish every moment!

I am very outgoing and full of energy. I'm very REAL and will talk to a wall if there's no one is around to talk to (not literally). I have ZERO tolerance for bullying or exclusion, which is evident in my classes. I pride myself in being a good listener, but that's a tough skill to master (and I talk about that in the class too)! I know Middle Schoolers (10-15 year olds) can be a real challenge, but I got this! Promise! Of the over 2000 kids I have trained, I have never had to call a parent to come pick up their child for behavior problems.

I am also very focused on SAFETY! In all honesty, I would probably not send my child to some stranger's house to take a class - BUT - you really can trust me (don't tell the kids I said that, because I will tell them never listen to that)! However, I have well over 1000 references to prove it, including co-workers and administrators at the hospital. You can also come out to meet me and see my home (where the classes are held) prior to registering if you'd like. I would never be offended if you asked.

Babysitting 101 Plus is the polar opposite of my “real” job. The kids and I laugh - a lot, and grow together in the 8 hours we are together. We don't cry, unless it's because we are laughing so hard. So it's a GREAT balance for me. The kids learn a LOT about themselves, about life and of course about babysitting!

Babysitting 101 Plus

About the Instructor & More

How this class got it start and where it is today:

Babysitting 101 Plus started in 2009. This program was developed shortly after I trained a group of BoyScouts how to do CPR. About 2 weeks later I was working at the hospital and was assigned a patient brought in with Respiratory Arrest. I found out he had drowned while fishing with his son on the Chattahoochee River. Long story short, the boys I had recently trained saved this man's life by doing CPR on him. It was an emotional scene when the pieces were all put together and in turn the wife of the patient realized I was the woman who had trained the boys how to do CPR. She jumped up, grabbed and hugged me and started crying and told me "never stop doing what you do; it's because of you that my husband is alive". Talk about a small world!! After that I knew I had to find a way to train as many kids as possible how to perform CPR. Just days later I was called by the activities director in my neighborhood. She told me that we need a Babysitter Training Program for our neighborhood, and she couldn't think of anyone better to develop and teach it than me. (I had already been highly involved with the neighborhood, the kids and the elementary and middle schools that my daughter had attended). The class got it's start at my kitchen table when I gathered a group of my neighbors and the school counselor and asked them "what qualities/skills/knowledge they wanted in a babysitter." That formed the foundation of the class curriculum. This was also combined with my medical background, life experiences, my degree in Early Childhood Education and my Nursing degree.

What started as an 8-student trial class for my daughter and her friends, grew into a full neighborhood based program. Almost every 10 - 15 year old, who lived in Windermere eventually took the class, and word-of-mouth blew this program up! There are now kids coming to this class from all over the USA - and not just GA, TN, AL, and SC. I have parents send their kids to local relatives and friends based on dates of the Babysitting 101 Plus classes! This course has changed over the years to accommodate the needs of today. I ask for feedback from the kids and parents after every class and mold it constantly to be what it needs to be. I can't possibly teach the kids everything they need to know in 8 hours, but I send them home with a pretty comprehensive manual and AHA CPR reference manual for them to review. I set a strong foundation for them to build from and that's the key. Some of the kids taking this class have been babysitting for quite some time, and they always admit there are things they had no idea about until taking this class. But that's life, we learn something new every day!

It wasn't until 2018 that I finally started a Facebook page for the class, and within hours of publishing the page I filled two classes (literally, in an 8 hour period). People were saying they had heard about the class but weren't sure how to find it. I also decided to have a website properly developed. Prior to this it was just word-of-mouth from happy kids and parents that allowed it to become the "it" class for Babysitter training, and that is still my primary form of advertising. The class has been molded over the years by the society in which we live, by the kids who attend the class and by the moms of the kids my students babysit for. It's ever-changing and evolving to see the needs of the students.

This class is not just about babysitting, it's about life! I love what I do, I love this class, I love the kids, and we have so much fun together while they learn really important stuff about themselves and about a really important job!

Enough about me and how the class started — please read the document called "The Class" It should answer all of your questions about registering for a class and the other things you need to know. If not, let me know.