



# Childcare Policy

## ***Guelph-Wellington Time Bank Childcare Policy***

To help ensure the safety of our members, and in line with best practice, the Guelph-Wellington Time Bank (GWTB) has developed this childcare policy. We are asking all members offering childcare to read the policy and sign it to say that they understand and will adhere to this policy.

### **Childcare Policy**

Anyone who offers childcare must also adhere to the GWTB Vulnerable Persons policy, as children can be considered as vulnerable people.

Any GWTB member requesting childcare is allowed to request that the offering member have a current Police check available to view before a childcare exchange is arranged. Any information provided will be dealt with according to the Privacy Act.

Any GWTB member offering childcare is to provide an additional character reference on top of the 2 references given when they first registered. This additional reference should be from someone who has received childcare from the Time Bank member. Questions will be asked about their childcare skills. This is to be done by a GWTB Coordinator prior to any care taking place. A police record check is not a mandatory requirement for membership, but may be requested by individual members seeking childcare services; a GWTB Coordinator may help facilitate the police check process, if needed.

Only legal guardians (i.e. parents and others appointed by the court) can enter into childcare agreements for their children).

It is recommended that the legal guardian and childcare provider meet each other before the exchange and make sure all parties are happy and that essential information about the child(ren) is passed on including emergency contact numbers for the parents while the childcare is taking place. Any information needed to ensure the safety of the childcare provider (e.g. aggressive behaviour habits, infectious diseases, etc.) must also be shared.

While the GWTB itself is not providing childcare, it is providing the opportunity for members to negotiate with each other the care of children. As stated in the GWTB Release of Liability Agreement, "I understand that, as a Time Bank, we offer neighborly services to each other. Members provide services to the best of their ability and do not guarantee their work. I understand that the GWTB is a coordinating agency only and cannot guarantee the performance of anyone who is referred. It is my responsibility to use the same caution I would in other circumstances to get to know a person, make reference checks, and use my instincts before engaging with another Time Bank member – especially for babysitting, elder care, and driving."

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_