

Baby's First Interview

Kid, have you got what it takes to join this team?

by **TIM LEHNERT**



When my wife returned to work full-time, I took charge of our infant daughter. Before taking her on, though, I interviewed her for the position.

I understand that you have only a few months' experience as a baby. Shouldn't be a problem. Your sister, who has been a team member here for over three years, had no experience whatsoever when she started.

Let's discuss strengths. The smile, cute gestures and winsome gurgling constitute an impressive skill set. You do cry and scream, but I like your forthrightness — no behind-the-back stuff.

Weaknesses. As I just noted, you sometimes cry loudly and can be moody and

self-centred. Sure you're not looking for a management position? Joke there. And then there's the excretions and spit-up. Once again, you scream management to me. OK, enough kidding.

I want to talk about where you see yourself in two years, five years, 10 years. A typical career path is toddler in 1½ years, little kid in three to four, and big kid in seven to 10. Then it's preteen, teenager and so on, but that's down the road a bit. I think you'll find that we can help you achieve your long-term goals, in addition to more immediate ambitions like rolling over.

Let me explain our organization. Structure-wise, there's a mother-father executive layer, although, believe me,

they get their hands dirty, and then there's your sister and you. Your sister may try to exert positional power over you, based on seniority — I expect you'll be bringing this to my attention.

I think you'll find your duties as a baby pretty standard: sucking, eating, burping and babbling. We'll also expect you to coo, smile and learn new things.

Our facility consists of a small house in the suburbs. You'll work at various sites in the home, including a well-appointed crib, your "office" so to speak. Occasionally you will need to leave the premises with other members of the team for the purposes of shopping and recreation. We'll handle the travel arrangements.

This is always touchy, legally and otherwise, but we do need to discuss your physical limitations. You can't walk or talk, nor can you dress or feed yourself. You also need to be changed periodically. These are issues, but they're not insurmountable. And there is precedent — your sister required similar accommodations not long ago.

Finally, your references are outstanding. You're very popular with your mother, and the grandparents adore you. I also see positive mentions from a cashier at the supermarket, and apparently you charmed a neighbour recently.

Thanks for your time. We'll get back to you, but I'm favourable at this point. OK, just between us, the interview was a formality. Welcome aboard. ♥

Tim Lehnert has a two-daughter staff.

