

# Why Child Care Isn't Like Baby Sitting

To The Editor:

William Safire, usually careful with his choice of words, uses the phrase "job-tied baby sitting" while discussing the need for child care in "... As We Know It," his column of July 6 on the privatization of welfare.

Does Mr. Safire understand the difference between baby sitting and child care?

Baby sitting is what my 15-year-old daughter does when she looks after the neighbor's kids for a couple of hours while they're parked in front of the television.

Child care, on the other hand, involves the nurturing and teaching of a group of children 8 to 10 hours a day, five days a week, by a professional with training in early childhood development.

Since children learn more rapidly between birth and age 4 than at any other time in life, they need child care, not baby sitting.



It's a very important distinction to make.

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