**Excerpt from “Babysitting S.T.Y.L.E. – Annual Guide 2012**

**Complete Guide for Babysitting Success!**

**Here is an excerpt from the Sitter Scoop section with the winning story from a babysitter in Albany, NY**

***Sitter: Amanda J., SeekingSitters Albany***

*I have been a part of the SeekingSitters babysitting team since January 2010, and I love it! I am currently going to school for a degree in Counseling and I hope to some day be a grief and loss counselor working with children. Before SeekingSitters, I had experience working with children as a Counselor-in-Training at a camp founded by Paul Newman for children with chronic disabilities and illnesses. This experience was life changing and prepared me to work with children of all ages in almost any situation, especially when they ask outrageous questions!*

*When I was 20, I spent two months in the hospital and had four surgeries due to a unexpected benign tumor on my liver. This caused internal bleeding, which led to emergency surgery and three subsequent surgeries. My body went through a lot of trauma, and those two months left me with a lot of scars. Most are not visible, but I have some on my neck from the central line. Of course kids – being the wonderful, curious beings that they are – always ask, “What are those things on your neck?” I never mind as this is one of the things I love about kids  - their innocent questions and curiosity.  I obviously can’t describe to a child exactly what happened, so I usually respond, “I was sick for a little while, but I’m all better now.”*

*While babysitting for one of my regular families, I was carrying the four-year-old girl upstairs to bed and as she was eye-level with my neck she asked, “What are those things, again?” I gave my usual answer, but she must have been a bit more curious or perhaps was trying to stall because it was bedtime, because she asked, “How sick were you? What kind of sick?” I told her that I was very sick, and I had to be in the hospital for a bit because the doctors needed to fix my liver (I poked her stomach where her liver would be, and she giggled). “Will it ever happen again?” she continued questioning. “I really hope not!” I replied.*

*Then one of my favorite babysitting moments occurred. This adorable little girl, with her curiosity and her innocent view of the world, said, “Well, if it does happen again, I have some Dora Band-Aids you can borrow!” I laughed, just picturing myself trying to cover up a giant scar stretching across my entire abdomen with a bunch of Band-Aids, with wild colors and Dora the Explorer smiling up at me. I said, “Thank you, that’s so nice of you to offer to share with me!” and I tucked her into bed.*

*Of the almost two years I have been a part of the SeekingSitters babysitting team, of all the families and children I have met, of all the times I have worked with them, this is by far the most memorable night I ever had. I smiled the rest of the evening, and whenever people ask about my job this is the first story I tell them. I love this job because I love working with kids, and I love to help them. But this is one of the many instances where kids have helped me! Whenever I am feeling down about myself, or I am having a tough day with the kids, I just think about this moment and feel instantly cheered!*