

# AMENITY WATCH

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Because Some Perks Don't Fit in the Minibar

## Free Babysitting in London

September 3, 2010 by [Becca Bergman](#)



*Courtesy of The Athenaeum*

Earlier this summer, the hotel hosted a nation-wide search for the best nannies in Britain. The final interview took place on August 5 in front of a panel comprised of the hotel's Kids Concierge plus a few 10-and-under judges. After firing several rounds of questions ("What's your favorite bug? "What would you put in a magic garden?"), the panel finally selected three women to be the hotel's resident "real-life Mary Poppinses."

To celebrate the debut of the nannies, the hotel is offering three hours of free babysitting services with its [Family Fun Package](#). The package also includes a picnic lunch for four that a family can enjoy at one of several nearby parks.

The hotel also offers some great cost-saving perks all the time including free meals for kids under 12, free transfers from any London airport, free WiFi, free minibar snacks and soda, and a full English breakfast for two every day. Added up, these freebies equal a truly terrific value.

Fresh off a multi-million dollar renovation, the hotel sports a 10-story "vertical garden"—an impressive living wall of plants that flanks the building. It offers 111 rooms, 12 suites, and 34 apartments that are individually decorated. Huge marble bathrooms, floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Green Park, iPod docks, a top-notch spa, even freezers full of complimentary ice cream...the list of assets goes on.

But the last word is on the superb location: Three of London's main parks are within walking distance, as well as Buckingham Palace, the Royal Academy of the Arts, and Trafalgar Square. And just behind the hotel is Shepherd Market with its array of fine pubs and restaurants.

The Family Fun package offers room rates guaranteed in dollars, beginning at \$450 for a Deluxe Room and \$799 for a Suite, with a three-night minimum. A second room or suite of the same type is offered at a 50 percent discount. The offer is only available until October 31, so don't dally!

Shelling out for kid care at a hotel is one of those inevitable costs that can add a significant chunk to your vacation bill and there's nothing you can really do about it. Especially in a city like [London](#), where grown-up fun (happening restaurants, brilliant theater) comes at a high cost anyway, paying for several nights of nanny care can really take its toll. Unless...you check into [The Athenaeum](#)

For a limited time, the luxe hotel in London's Mayfair district is offering complimentary nanny service. And these aren't just any nannies...