

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____

CONFUSED CATHY

DIRECTIONS: Read the story about Cathy. On your own paper, write down at least twenty mistakes that Cathy made while she worked as a caregiver.

“I’d love to babysit on Friday, Ms. Johnson,” Cathy said into the telephone.

“Please be here at 7:00 so I can tell you everything you’ll need to know. I must leave for the meeting by 7:30.” Ms. Johnson said.

On Friday afternoon Cathy washed her hair, blew it dry, and grabbed her curling iron before leaving for the Johnson’s. She couldn’t remember exactly what time she was supposed to be there, but she guessed that 7:30 would be close enough.

On the way to Ms. Johnson’s, Cathy planned what she would do when the children were in bed. She wasn’t sure how many children there were, but she just planned to let them do what they wanted and assumed that everything would be all right.

When Cathy arrived, Ms. Johnson was not very pleasant.

“Cathy! I needed you to be here at 7:00. Because I don’t have time now to tell you everything, I’ve written all the instructions on this paper. Please read it carefully. The children are hungry. Please don’t give them any snacks until after you feed them dinner. I have to run now. Good luck.”

When Ms. Johnson was gone, Cathy quickly looked through the list.

- *There is a casserole in the refrigerator for dinner.*
- *James is allergic to cherries; don’t let him eat them.*
- *The older children need to bathe.*
- *The baby is asleep, but will need his diaper changed when he wakes up. His bottle is in the refrigerator. Warm it in hot water—NOT the microwave.*
- *The children know to pick up their toys when they are finished playing, but usually need to be reminded.*

Cathy placed the list on the edge of the table and went to curl her hair. She thought Ms. Johnson sure expected a lot from a caregiver.

Of course, the children began fighting. Cathy was annoyed because she wanted to finish curling her hair. She yelled at them to be quiet and slammed the bathroom door shut.

After curling her hair, Cathy forgot to unplug her curling iron. She went into the kitchen because she was hungry. The children followed her, whining for something to eat. Cathy forgot the list Mrs. Johnson had left and just started cleaning out the refrigerator, giving the children anything

they thought looked good. James wanted cherries, Susan wanted a piece of pie, and Joshua wanted a jam sandwich. Cathy rummaged through the cupboard until she found some chips and they all just ate whatever they wanted.

The baby started to cry. Cathy went into his room and picked him up. He didn't smell very pleasant, but she just tried to ignore it. When he kept crying, she decided he was hungry and wondered what to feed him. James told her the baby's bottle was in the refrigerator. Cathy went to get the bottle and stuck it in the baby's mouth. He kept pushing it away. The other children laughed and explained to Cathy that babies like their bottles warm. Cathy was embarrassed and warmed the bottle in the microwave. The baby seemed to like the bottle and was quiet, so Cathy put him back in bed with his bottle.

She told the other kids to brush their teeth and go to bed. Susan went in the bathroom and tried to brush her teeth, but Cathy's curling iron was in the way. She picked it up to move it and burned her hand. When she went screaming down the hall, Cathy was talking on the telephone to her friend. She told her friend to wait a minute. She took Susan into the kitchen where she rubbed butter all over the burn. Susan was still crying, but Cathy told her to go to bed. She went back to her telephone conversation.

The boys wouldn't go to bed. Cathy asked her friend to come over and help her. She hung up the phone and went to put the boys in bed. James looked funny. His lips were swollen and he was breathing heavily. Cathy didn't know what to do. "What could possibly be wrong?" she asked herself. Just then she heard the door open. She yelled, "Oh, hi, Stacey. Come in—these kids are monsters!" When she turned around, there stood Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Johnson explained: "The meeting ended early. Goodbye, Cathy. I won't be calling you again."

Write down at least twenty mistakes Cathy made as a caregiver

CONFUSED CATHY—KEY

1. Did not listen to the directions Ms. Johnson told her on the phone
2. Did not follow the directions on the list
3. Invited her friend to call and talked for a long time
4. Arrived late
5. Did not know how many children she would be caring for or anything about them
6. Did not listen to Ms. Johnson's directions before she left
7. Did not care about the children or taking care of their needs
8. Curled her hair instead of preparing dinner
9. Fed the kids snacks instead of dinner
10. Left her curling iron on—resulting in Jane's burn
11. Put butter instead of cold water on Jane's burn
12. Gave James cherries, even though he was allergic to them
13. Talked on the phone instead of watching the children
14. Invited her friend over without permission from Ms. Johnson
15. Put the children to bed early without their baths
16. Did not watch the children or provide entertainment for them
17. Yelled at the children
18. Fed the baby a cold bottle
19. Warned the bottle in the microwave
20. Put the baby to be with a bottle