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New Stroller Plate Asks: How's My Nanny?

(WCBS) NEW YORK Nannies beware. Parents have a new way of keeping track of you.

Easily attached to strollers are new license plates that ask, how's my nanny? – and that has some parents intrigued. "It's kind of like on a truck 'how's my driving,'" said Heather Brandes, "Yeah, why not."

The license plate is the invention of prosecutor Jill Starishevsky, a mother of two after seeing blogs where nanny misdeeds are reported. She expanded on the idea by assigning numbers.

If Good Samaritans notice something wrong, parents are notified. The cost of the service is \$50 a year.

"Perhaps because this license plate is on your stroller," said Starishevsky, "a nanny, who would have otherwise been short with your child, might not have given the child the attention – might be more inclined to do so because they're now accountable."

Veteran nanny Reshmee Rajnarain says that all violent nannies should be locked away. But she also cautions against punishing dedicated, law-abiding nannies by going overboard. "I think they are ridiculous," she said.

"Because we are nannies and we are doing our job. You don't have to put a license plate on a stroller to see how we are doing."

Psychologist Robert Reiner says don't spy, snoop or snitch. Instead, before you hire a nanny, make him or her take a personality survey. "Use psychological testing. That's what it's there for."

He also says do your homework – get referrals. That's how Neil and Laura Chelsea found a nanny they liked for their 2-year-old child. "We trust her," said Neil. "That being said, if anybody saw something that was disturbing, we'd want to hear about it."

For some parents, a bit of insecurity is why the license plate for of surveillance may be on a roll.

Child abuse experts say anything to prevent child abuse is good, but the vast majority of abuse happens behind closed doors – not out in public.

(WCBS)

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