

HOUSEKEEPER/NANNIES TO THE RESCUE AS PARENTS CALL IN THE PROFESSIONALS

Submitted by: Peppermint Soda

Wednesday, 18 May 2005

Though few British mums have lifestyles that rival those of TV's *Desperate Housewives*, thousands share at least one aspiration with Wisteria Lane's mother of four, Lynette Scavo...craving professional help with the children and the house.

As the number of people choosing childcare as a career is falling year on year, the latest generation of busy mothers is turning to a new live-in home care professional – the housekeeper/nanny.

A rapidly growing network of housekeeper/nannies is now providing more flexible assistance in dozens of homes across the country. They guarantee impeccable standards of housework and offer the dual benefit of helping parents out with the children.

The Cheshire-based Housekeeper Company reports that interest in Filipino and other foreign housekeeper/nannies has soared over the past six months. As Julia Harris, managing director, observed: "Family-focused Mums – whether or not they're pursuing a career – are desperate to spend more quality time with their children. They're loathe to spend many hours on household chores if it's to the detriment of family life.

"With traditional nannies in short supply, parents are looking for other childcare solutions. The new housekeeper/nannies are able to offer a wider range of household services and fill the gap between mothers' helps, nannies and housekeepers."

35-year-old Natalie Laniado from North London is mother to eight-month-old twins James and Louis. She has taken on a Filipino housekeeper/nanny, Perlas San Andres, whose impeccable standards have freed up more of her time for the twins.

She said: "Having Perlas around has improved our quality of life no end. Instead of worrying about the house and just surviving each day, I'm actually enjoying it and can focus on the babies. The house is so much calmer now and Perlas is a pleasure to have around. She's gentle and loving with the babies - and very discreet."

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Editor's Notes:

- The Housekeeper Company deals exclusively with legitimate Filipino and other Asian migrant domestic workers, most of whom are already living in the UK. Treating the housekeepers with respect and care is a

key tenet of the company's ethos.

- The company is the first agency to offer Filipino housekeepers outside of London and - as well as many lower profile families - counts football stars and TV celebrities amongst its clients.
- The Housekeeper Company is a division of The Childcare Recruitment Company Ltd which offers a uniquely wide spectrum of home-based childcare options.