

Jobs for the boys!

Forget Mary Poppins - a nineties nanny is more likely to resemble cuddly Martin Smith who, at 22, is one of the new breed of British male nannies.

'I love being around kids and nannying is very rewarding. The money isn't great, but then I don't do it for the money. I like seeing kids happy and, if they are, it makes my job a whole lot easier,' laughs Martin. He claims today's nannies are better equipped and more highly qualified, and that their image is changing rapidly. 'Anyone with basic school qualifications can do the course to become a nanny, but personality is really more important. I'm a good nanny because I have a rapport with youngsters and babies - it isn't a gift exclusive to women.'

His female counterparts have welcomed Martin, although some chauvinistic men think his chosen career makes him a bit 'soft'. 'I feel sorry for them,' he sighs, 'Just because I work with women and kids, it doesn't mean I'm feminine or strange.' But he admits that it will be some time before male nannies are totally accepted. 'It'll happen gradually, but there's no reason why men can't do this job as well as women.'

1. Answer the following questions using your own words. (2 points: 1 point each)

- a) According to the text, what is the most important quality you need to be a capable nanny?
- b) How have people reacted to Martin's choice of job?

2. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? (1 point: 0.5 each)

- a) In spite of the salary, Martin likes his job very much.
- b) Men can be better nannies because they are better qualified.

3. Find a word or phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: (1 point: 0.5 each)

- a) giving personal satisfaction, worthwhile
- b) people who have a similar job, function or position

4. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (2 points: 0.5 each)

1. Nowadays nannies ...

- a) *earn a lot of money.*
- b) *change their image many times.*
- c) *are better trained than before.*

2. Martin believes that he is an excellent nanny because ...

- a) *he has the right qualifications.*
- b) *he understands children's feelings very well.*
- c) *being a nanny isn't exclusive to women.*

3. Martin's job choice hasn't been well regarded by ...

