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## Northbrook Nanny Expert Marks Fifth Year in Business



By Local Contributor Thursday at 8:44 p.m.



First Class Care Professional Nannies, Housekeepers and Chefs

This year marks the fifth birthday for Northbrook-based First Class Care, Inc., one of Chicagoland's top-rated full service domestic placement agencies. Since October 2006, the agency has grown from one to three full-time employees with locations in Northbrook and Chicago. In addition to the firm's expertise in finding families the best nannies, First Class Care helps place newborn care specialists, babysitters, housekeepers, house managers, personal chefs and elder care companions.

A member of the Association of Premier Nanny Agencies (APNA), the company became the only APNA-approved agency in Illinois in 2009. And in 2010, First Class Care was named APNA Agency of the year.

With over 2000 placements to date, the company is known for fulfilling its clients' high expectations time and time again. This year, for example, First Class Care placed a nanny with a family who relocated to Arlington Heights from France. "We just handled it like any

other placement,” said Erin Krex, president of the company. “But at the end of the day, it’s a good feeling to know that someone as far away as France trusts that we will find the right nanny no matter what.”

In addition to placing nannies and other in-home professionals, First Class Care has become well known for its commitment to continuous improvement and education. With the opening of First Class Care Academy in October they provide a wide variety of training, including classes on cooking and how to nurture good behavior to name just a few.

“We noticed that if you give the candidates continued training in a variety of areas then they are more confident and can preform at their best,” said Krex. “Creating a fun and educational training program also helps the candidates gain skills to last longer in their jobs as the families' needs change.”

This month and in December, Krex will be offering her clients—and their nannies—tips for getting through the holidays, as well as gift ideas for those jack-of-all-tradeswomen. “One of the best ways to celebrate your nanny is to let her know how much she is appreciated,” said Krex. “Even a simple ‘thank you’ or ‘great job’ goes a long, long way.” Krex offers the following holiday gift ideas:

- A one-year membership (\$35) to the International Nanny Association ([www.nanny.org](http://www.nanny.org)), an invaluable resource for nannies everywhere. INA provides a wealth of information, networking opportunities and a variety of professional and personal enrichment programs.
- Some well-deserved paid time off. “Even a few hours in the middle of a normal work day will be greatly appreciated,” offered Krex.
- Homemade items like cookies (with baking help from the kids), handmade cards, or her favorite home-cooked meal.
- A spa day—everyone, especially hardworking nannies, appreciates some pampering.
- Airfare for a trip.
- A gift card to her favorite restaurant or store.