



**American  
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **Advanced Training Available for Babysitters**

Home Injuries cause 21 million medical visits and nearly 20,000 deaths each year

**February 10, 2009** - Each year, the American Red Cross trains and certifies over 120,000 sitters nationwide through the Babysitter's Training program. Youth, ages 11 to 15, learn to administer basic first aid; properly hold and feed a child; take emergency action when needed; monitor safe play and actively engage children. Now, young people can take their training a step further with ***Advanced Babysitter Training – First Aid with CPR***.

“As parents, we must ensure that young people babysitting our children know how to react quickly and appropriately in life-threatening situations,” explained Michael Carroll, CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. “The Red Cross Advanced Babysitter Training class gives youth the skills they need to minimize the consequences of injury, including burns, sudden illness, and respiratory or cardiac emergencies in children and infants.”

The Home Safety Council reports that children ages 14 and under are disproportionately at risk of suffering a home injury fatality. Fires and burns are the leading cause of home injury-related death for children ages 14 and under and falls are the leading cause of nonfatal injury, causing more than 1.2 million emergency department visits for this age group each year.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus' Babysitter's Training program is open to girls and boys 11 to 15 yrs. old. All courses are taught by an authorized Red Cross Babysitter's Training instructor. Students must have completed Babysitter's Training within the last six-months of taking the advanced class and must bring the revised 2008 Babysitter's Training Handbook and Reference Guide with them to class. Register for classes at [columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org) or call 614.251.1444 to purchase gift certificates and other class materials.

After successful completion of the advanced babysitter training class, participants will have a three-year certification in Standard First Aid and a one-year certification in Infant and Child CPR.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by over 600 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to more than 500 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 97,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent more than 800 emergency messages between members of the military and their families. The community transportation program provides rides to medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities, logging more than 19,600 trips last year. All these programs and more are made possible by the donations of time and money from the greater Columbus community.

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Editor's Note: Upcoming classes and locations are listed below and available at [Columbus.redcross.org](http://Columbus.redcross.org). All participants must register directly with the Red Cross and should not call the facility.

#### Advanced Babysitter Training – First Aid with CPR

2/28/09	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	American Red Cross 995 East Broad St., Columbus 43205
3/28/09	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	American Red Cross 995 East Broad St., Columbus 43205
4/25/09	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	American Red Cross 995 East Broad St., Columbus 43205

#### Babysitter's Training – The Basics

2/21/09	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Aquatic Adventures Ohio 3940 Lyman Dr., Hilliard 43026
3/14/09	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Sylvan Learning Center 4067 Third St., Grove City 43123
3/21/09	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Easter Seals Central & Southeast Ohio 3830 Trueman Ct., Hilliard 43026
4/11/09	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Sylvan Learning Center 4067 Third St., Grove City 43123

\* Photos are available showing youngsters learning skills.