

The only thing that persuaded me to fork out money for a baby-sitter was the thought of the headlines if something dreadful happened while we were out: "Evil parents leave tots alone to tackle mad axeman".

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The boys would have dealt much better with a mad axeman on their own, without also having to cope with a hysterical girl who did not even know the English for "Help!"

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It would have looked bad if we had left them to fend for themselves.