

# The next hot summer job? Nannyterning

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Amy Power and Ashley Cashman

Stevan Koye Photography

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**Some kids take summer internships. Others find nannying gigs. One young woman found a job that let her do both. Is this the future for millennials?**

Ashley Cashman spends the sticky days of summer playing soccer with the kids in the backyard, researching media contacts at the office, taking the kids to the pool when they need a ride, and pitching stories to reporters.

Superhero mom?

Nope. Cashman is 21. She's a nanny-intern. Nannytern, as she calls it, for short.

Cashman's position is unique but demonstrates millennials' preference of integrating their professional and personal lives, says Christine Riordan, provost and professor of management at the University of Kentucky. They view work as a source of friendship, she adds. Jobs like nannyterning may just be heralding the start of a new era where the lines between life and work get blurrier and blurrier.

Work-life balance expert Jeff Davidson pooh-poohs the enthusiasm. “It sounds like a quasi-spouse relationship,” he says. Davidson argues that once someone has proven themselves in a business capacity they shouldn’t be doing domestic work for you because it blurs the lines between professional and personal.

Navigating that line is challenging, Cashman admits. Being in a unique position of responsibility and trust without evoking the envy of your coworkers is tricky. Cashman takes care to keep the nannyng aspect of her job on the down-low in the office and downplays how well she knows Power. “I keep my conversations with Amy to myself. I don’t advertise it or anything,” she says.

Power points out that the key to make this work is finding the right personality combination. However, she adds that one’s home culture and business culture tend to be similar because the same leader is instilling the same values regardless of place.

If nannyterning became a broader trend, it’s unclear if the nannytern summer blockbuster would be a comic bildungsroman with a happy ending, or *Revenge of the Nannyterns*. In Cashman’s case, the summer story will have a happy ending. Cashman graduates next year and Power says she’s happy to give Cashman a full-time job, another internship, or, at the very least, a stellar recommendation.

And as for the true litmus test: Cashman wants that full-time job. “I’d take it in a heartbeat,” she says.