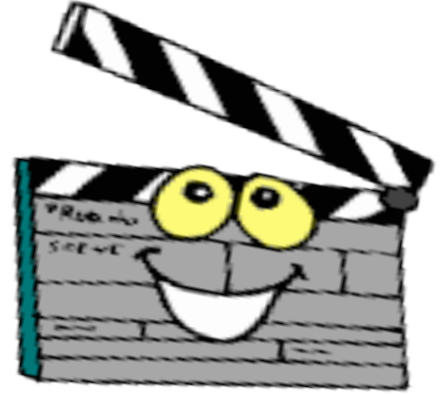


CTM



I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Babies and Children in the Film/TV/Commercial industry.

FAQ

What kind of jobs are out there for Babies and Children?

Most of the work for Actors under 5 years is in Commercials. Occasionally there are opportunities in Film and Television – but these roles are few and far between.

What is “Casting Workbook”?

Casting Workbook is an electronic resource that Casting Directors and Agents use. Casting Directors send the “Breakdowns” to Agents via Casting Workbook. Agents submit their clients to Casting Directors via Casting Workbook. When you sign with CTM, you will be expected to open an account on Casting Workbook for your child. The annual cost is \$35. This fee is NOT paid to CTM, it is paid directly to Casting Workbook. You will post photos and should change them regularly. Babies change dramatically every few months and their photos need to be updated every few months. 3-5 year olds should have photos updated at least every six months. You will also be expected to keep your child’s resume and skill list current on Casting Workbook. It is important for us to have as much information as possible about developmental milestones. Eg. “Can sit up” or “Walking” or “can kick a soccer ball”.....

How often will my child go to auditions?

There is really no way to know how often auditions will come up. We do not know in advance what will be shooting in Vancouver and what age/ethnicity/skill level the production will be looking for. The industry is unpredictable. You may have four auditions in a month, or you may have 4 auditions over an entire year. You may go to two auditions in a week, or you may not get an audition for 8 months.

How much notice do we get?

Not enough! But.... here is why, and here is how the whole thing works.

All agents get the breakdown at exactly the same time. Our job is to submit the actors who fit the specs. It is important for parents to know that we often have only a few hours to respond with our submissions to casting directors. There is seldom enough time to phone parents to check availability and certainly never enough time to play telephone tag. If there is a window of time, I will immediately send out an email to our parents with all of the information so that you have a chance to let me know if I should or shouldn't submit your child. Of course, this "heads up" only helps if you live on the computer. So we have to make the assumption that you will be able to get your child to the audition if the casting director wants to see him or her. It takes the casting directors time to look at all of the submissions and make their choices, and so they are not usually ready to phone agents until late in the day to request specific actors for auditions. That is why we are phoning you at dinnertime.

Why is it so important to go to every audition?

You can count on the fact that we will submit your child for every role that he or she matches. However, for every breakdown and every role, casting directors will be looking at hundreds of photos and will be reading hundreds of descriptions about cute and talented kids, who have all been submitted by their respective agents. Unfortunately, casting directors have only so many audition spots and they have to carefully choose who they want to see, based on who best matches the specs. Once they have their list, they build a detailed schedule and call agents with audition times for their clients. When actors can't make auditions, the schedules fall apart. You can see the problem

What happens when we go to the audition?

You will "Sign In" so please make sure you have the necessary information. (Child's SIN#, Agency telephone number and address....)

You will be with your child in the Waiting Room, but usually the casting director will take your child into the Audition room, and leave you anxiously listening at the door!

If my child books a role, do I stay with them on Set?

Yes. There is a room set up where little one can play and nap and have snacks. When it is time for the little actor to go to set, mom goes too. If you have trouble seeing your child, they will provide a monitor for you to watch. Your child will never be out of your sight.

What are the chances that my child will book?

No way to know. It is hugely competitive. There are literally hundreds of kids and the Casting Directors take a look at as many as possible. There is a lot of matching (either with families or with the other kids in the spot) and often the Directors and Producers have a certain thing in mind and they look until they find it. When your child does not book, it does not mean he/she is not as cute. . . It means he/she wasn't what they were

looking for in that particular case.

What's a Callback?

There are often many little actors at a first-round audition. A Call-Back is a second audition for the same role. The director will look at all of the tapes from the first audition and pick the actors to see for the second round. Sometimes there is a 2nd Callback after that before a decision is made.

Will we hear either way?

No. Casting Directors only contact us for Callbacks or Bookings.

What if my little actor bombs at the audition?

Don't worry. It will eventually happen to everyone. Casting Directors and Directors and Producers understand that little actors can be unpredictable and even "perfect" little people are cranky if they are tired or teething or are suddenly feeling that they can't pry their hands from Mom's neck. Never worry about that sort of thing. It means nothing – other than at that moment in time they needed to be somewhere else.

What happens if my little actor books a role?

There are contracts to be signed. You will be contacted by the Production's Wardrobe department (please have sizes and measurements handy) and then you will need to go in for fittings. The timeframe between audition and shooting varies but often the wardrobe happens the day after the Callback round and shooting the day after that. So your schedule must be flexible and open.

Please note: They often book babies as Backup Babies - because they always want backups in case the first choice baby has a bad day. Backup babies are usually paid \$350.00. Imagine having 30 people on set, all the equipment ready to go, location paid for and Baby decides to sit and cry! It happens. So there is always at least one baby in the wings ready to go. This is nerve wracking for the parents, because of course they want it to be their baby. All you can do is go as rested as possible and be ready for anything and enjoy every experience for what it is.

What about roles in Film and Television?

Film and Television productions like to use identical twins – which will double the number of hours they can shoot that role on set. Occasionally there are opportunities for 2-4 year olds to get a chance at a role in a Feature or on a TV show. They are usually matching to the parents, so these roles are often based a lot on looks and developmental milestones. Child actors – ages 5 and up – really need to take classes if they want to audition for Film and Television. Every minute that a child actor wastes on set – because they don't understand set directions or because they aren't adequately prepared, costs the production money - so they are very cautious about who they audition and cast. Training is imperative if children want to move from Commercials to Film and Television.

How much money could my child make?

For details about rates for Commercials, Film and Television, check out the following site: <http://www.ubcp.com>