

The Baby-Zoomer's Club: Claudia Conquers Coronavirus  
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(Based on the Baby-Sitters Club series, originally by Ann M. Martin)

It all started one Monday at the very beginning of lockdown. The Baby-Sitters Club was meeting on Zoom to discuss how we were going to manage the club during Coronavirus.

Hi. I'm Claudia Kishi. I have many talents. Babysitting, of course! Fashion also. I have my own style. For example, I wear big earrings, paper bag pants, and lots of cool jackets. But mostly, I'm great at art. My whole room is full of my work.

But despite all that, with COVID my mind was busy with other things. My parents are working from home. My older sister, Janine, is taking her college level classes at home, and I'm not seeing my friends. Most of all, I'm worried about my grandmother, Mimi, who is 83, which makes her at high risk. She lives with us so I don't want to go to people's houses to babysit and come home and get Mimi sick.

But I couldn't leave the club hanging. And I knew my friend, Stacey McGill, was thinking the same thing because she's diabetic, so she is also high risk. They needed all hands on deck. We decided to table the discussion until we could think of a solution.

The next day my phone rang. It was Kristy Thomas (President of the BSC) "Claudia, I'm getting so many calls. Clients working from home, they still need someone to watch their kids, but some are worried about social distancing."

That's when it hit me! The best idea I've ever had.

"Kristy, what if Stacey and I babysit on Zoom or FaceTime. We can call the kids' iPads and we could have them take us with them. We could play Simon Says and Red Light, Green Light. I could even do some virtual arts and crafts classes with them."

"Good idea," Kristy said. "Try it out tomorrow with the two youngest Pike kids."

The next day I called the iPad that Margo and Claire Pike shared. It was fun. First when I called they were having a snack, so that part was easy. Then, of course I had to instruct them in putting their dishes in the sink carefully. Then they took the iPad (aka me) up to their room to play family. All was well until the phone rang. Mrs. Pike must've had headphones on because no one answered it. Margo and Claire ran downstairs leaving me behind! I panicked that they were out of my sight. Then I remembered that my fellow BSC member, Dawn Schafer, lived really close by. I called her, and three minutes later she came and returned the kids back in my care.

The rest of the day went really well and when Mrs. Pike thanked me I could tell she was very grateful for some time alone to get her work done.

Over the next couple weeks the Baby-Zoomers Club, as we named it, got just as much business as the Baby-Sitters Club. We even set up a Venmo account for the club so clients could pay us that way.

I'm glad that while coronavirus is going on, I'm going to be a BabyZ-oomer. Mimi loves the idea, too. And I'm happy that she's healthy. We are going to get through this together.