other family members. There would be a male teenager to attract teenage girls to the show, a female teenager, and three younger children. Out of the 850 children interviewed, Claver decided to test 10 - two for each role. They were tested and chosen "in relationship to each other – for the chemistry."

Although Shirley Jones was aware that her stepson, David Cassidy, was being considered for the role of Keith Partridge, the only person at Screen Gems who knew of their relationship was casting director, Rene Valente. The relationship was kept secret until David became a finalist. When the information came out, everyone was concerned as to just how Shirley got along with her stepson. Shirley Jones and actor Jack Cassidy were married when David was 7 years old. If any resentment was felt then, it has long since dissipated. Shirley told them she got along fine with her stepson.

The role of Danny was filled by 11-year-old Danny Bonaduce. Producer Claver was struck with Danny's ability to make anything he said sound funny. Danny's father, television writer Joe Bonaduce has been quoted as saying, "when I moved out here (California) six years ago I couldn't get a job. I couldn't even get arrested. But everybody we met wanted Danny. Against our will, we finally let him give it a try." Millions of American's are glad Danny got his chance – his comic ability is a definite asset to the success of the show.

One of New York's most popular young fashion models, Susan Dey, was cast in the role of Laurie. Suzanne Crough, a member of a large family herself, won the role of Tracy. For the first season, the role of Chris was played by Jeremy Russell Gelbwaks. When Jeremy's father was transferred to a new job in Washington, D.C., he was forced to withdraw from the show. For the second season, the role of Chris is played by Brian Foster.

The pilot was completed in December, 1969. It was submitted to ABC and their policy demanded that it pass an audience research test. Executive producer Claver describes it like