

As parents, we know you want to do everything possible to keep your kids safe at home ... but you can't always be there to keep watch over them as you'd like.

Your children need a lot of support and guidance if they spend regular time alone at home.

Remember to keep in touch with your children as often as possible and to be aware of what they're doing when you can't be with them.

Important phone numbers:

Fire: _____

Police: _____

Mom's work: _____

Dad's work: _____

Neighbor: _____

Relative: _____

Information courtesy of



**Prevent Child Abuse
America**

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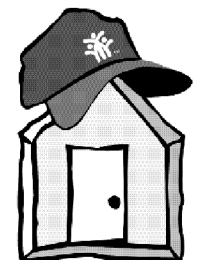
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safe at home tips

Home Alone?

Helping to
Keep Your
Children Safe
at Home

Teaming up to keep kids...



Safe at Home™

Home is the place where children feel protected and secure.

Yet, everyone knows that home isn't always a safe place.

It's the place where accidental injuries often occur.

Young children should never be left home alone.

Children under the age of 12 generally need adult supervision for all but short periods of time.

When your children are home alone, they should understand that they are accepting adult responsibility for their safety. The following tips will help ensure the safety of your children when you can't be home with them.

Agree on ground rules when you are not at home.

- ... what about cooking alone?
- ... can your children leave the house?
- ... what about having friends over when you're not there?

Have important telephone numbers posted prominently.

- ... fire and police departments
- ... neighbors
- ... nearby relatives

If your children arrive home to an empty house, have them call you to check in.

Set up rules about answering the telephone and the door when you're not at home. Be sure they understand the importance of not telling strangers that they are home alone.

Enroll your children in a course on safety procedures specifically designed for kids. Your local hospital or YMCA may offer classes of this type.

Investigate programs in your area that may benefit your child, such as grandparent's programs and check-in programs.

Talk with your children about their concerns when they are home alone.

Establish guidelines for your children's use of the Internet. Many parents have clear rules about what their children should say to strangers on the telephone ... use the same care with regard to the Internet.



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