

The National SAFEKIDS Campaign recommends that no child under the age of 12 be left at home alone.



Texas law has no age limit or length of time that child can be left at home.

READY, SET, SOLO!

Once your child is ready to be left alone for a few hours, share these SAFETY TIPS with them and discuss your expectations and their concerns.

CHECKLIST

- LOCK THE DOOR
- SET THE ALARM
- CHECK-IN WITH PARENT
- TURN LIGHTS ON AFTER DARK
- DO HOMEWORK AND/OR CHORES

- ✓ Your child should carry the house key with them at all times. DO NOT label the key with your address or phone number in case it gets lost. Instruct your child to have the key in their hand when they arrive home.
- ✓ Tell your child NEVER to enter the house if something looks suspicious - a door ajar or a window is open or broken. If something appears awry, have a backup plan with a neighbor/relative.
- ✓ If someone calls or stops by the house, your child should NEVER reveal they are home alone. Provide your child with verbiage, such as "My mom is busy in the kitchen, can I take a message?"
- ✓ Your child should NEVER open the door for any reason. Even if someone claims "your mom and dad told me to come get you," your child should know to ask for a code word that you agreed to ahead of time.
- ✓ Make sure your child knows basic first-aid and fire safety, including how to call 9-1-1. He/she must know how to provide their full address and stay on the phone with the operator.

THE NATIONWIDE NUMBER OF SELF-SUPERVISED CHILDREN HAS JUMPED TO



15.1 MILLION

↓
6%
INCREASE
SINCE 2004

1 IN 25

K - FIFTH GRADERS
CARE FOR THEMSELVES
AFTER SCHOOL



HALF
OF LATCHKEY KIDS
COME FROM MIDDLE
OR UPPER CLASS

Whether a child is home alone for an hour or even the whole afternoon, it's extremely important to develop a safety plan.

RESOURCES

www.aacap.org
www.kidshealth.org
www.parenting.org



TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 1748 / Austin, TX 78767
512.854.9770 / www.tcsheriff.org

LATCHKEY SAFETY



AFTER-SCHOOL GUIDE
from the
TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



HELPFUL NUMBERS



DISPLAY THIS USEFUL CONTACT
NUMBER LIST ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR
OR ANOTHER COMMON AREA.

MAKE SURE IT IS VISIBLE AND
YOUR CHILD KNOWS WHERE IT IS.

NUMBERS TO CALL IN EMERGENCIES

CALL **9-1-1** FOR EMERGENCIES

Police: _____

Fire Department: _____

Poison Control: _____

OUR ADDRESS:

NOTES:

NUMBERS OF HELPERS

Parent 1: _____

Parent 2: _____

Relative 1: _____

Relative 2: _____

Neighbor 1: _____

Neighbor 2: _____

Doctor: _____

Veterinarian: _____