

Supervising Children

Children aged birth to 4 years old should be supervised at all times.

Children aged 5 to 7 years old can play for up to 30 minutes unsupervised when a adult/caregiver is able to check in regularly or able to see the child.

Children aged 8 and 9 years old should not be left alone before or after school but can walk to school alone. They can play for up to 1 hour unsupervised when an adult/caregiver is able to check in regularly. This may include being outside in the neighbouring area if the area is deemed safe.

Children aged 10 and 11 years old may occasionally be left at home for up to 2 hours as long as they are comfortable with it and their maturity level is age appropriate. This time should not be over night and they should not be in charge of siblings.

Children 12 years should not be left alone overnight. They are of age to babysit younger siblings for under 4 hours and should know basic safety rules. They should not be responsible to cook or bath other children. An adult should be available for consultation by phone or in person.

Safety Education

Teach your children general rules of safety (911, not to answer the door, not talking to strangers etc)

If a child is anxious about being alone do it in small steps until they become confident.

Give your child the house key and set up rules.

Ban cooking and having friends over.

Post emergency numbers for fire, police, neighbours, family etc

Give clear instructions on keeping you informed of their whereabouts and who they are with.

Curfews should be set up and strictly enforced.