



LATCHKEY KIDS
Learning How to Stay Safe

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INTRODUCTION

Children need to know how to take care of themselves and how to handle emergency situations when they are home alone. They need to be carefully instructed on how to handle real-life situations, such as phone calls from strangers, what to do if a fire breaks out, or if a severe weather system develops.

TIPS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE HOME ALONE

1) House Key

Try out the key before hand. Always carry your key on you. The best place is around your neck on a chain or a string. You should keep it out of sight. Make sure that you remove it from the door and lock the door once you are inside.

2) When You Get Home

Look for signs like broken windows, doors open, or anything strange around the house. If something looks wrong do not enter the house. Go to your contact home and call your Mom/Dad.



3) Strangers

Are people that you don't know even if you see them everyday. Don't talk to these people and never let a stranger know that you are home alone.

4) House Rules

Follow the house rules that you and your parents agreed on. Discuss with your parents any of the rules that are hard to follow.

5) Emergencies/Problems

Make sure that you know what to do in each situation. If you are unsure, ask your parents to review and practice the situation until you feel confident.



6) Who do you let in?

Make a list with your parents:

- Adults
- Friends
- Service people

Uniform people ask for identification.

If you have a bad feeling inside, then do not let them in.

Emergency situation someone wants to use the phone, tell him or her to go use the phone next door. Never unlock the door, even one with a chain. Don't let anyone in unless they are on your list of people allowed in when your parents are not at home. Always look through the peephole, if there is no peephole then look through a window, if there is neither a peephole or a window then call out "Who is it?"

7) Telephone Calls

Never give out any information to the caller. Do not let them know that you are home alone. Say hello and give an excuse why your parents cannot come to the phone. (i.e. Very busy and cannot be disturbed.) Ask if you can take a message or if they can call back later. If they call back later and your parents still aren't home tell them your parents are still too busy to come to the phone.



8) Crank Calls

Do not stay on the phone. If they say strange things hang up and call 911. A man or a lady will answer and say police or fire or ambulance? Tell them you want police. Give them your address and details of the call (i.e. Sexual nature or if they threatened you. Police will want to call someone to come and stay with you. Have a list of number's available (i.e. Mom and dad at work, grandparents, neighbours).

CONCLUSION

It is a good idea to review these rules with your parent periodically so that you will know what to do in situations. As you get older your parents may want to increase your responsibilities and privileges. This may include taking on the role of babysitting younger siblings. Learning these rules will be a good stepping stone for becoming responsible babysitters. Other parents may see that you are responsible and want to also hire you.