

This pamphlet has been developed by the Southwest Health & Human Services Child Protection Unit. It is intended to be used as a guide for the parents in determining what amount of supervision their child needs.

These supervision guidelines follow the criteria of the Minnesota Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines.



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SUPERVISION GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS



HOW OLD IS ENOUGH?

As a parent, you want to make safe decisions about the supervision and child care arrangements for your children. You might wonder at what age a child can be left unsupervised? Or, how old do kids need to be to babysit for other children? Consider the following:

- Child's age, mental ability and maturity level
- Accessibility of the parent (or designated adult) to the child by phone and/or in person
- Behaviors, intellectual problems, or disabilities of the child
- A child's age, if using the kitchen stove, an iron or other appliances
- Well understood emergency/escape plan that has been worked out by the parent(s) and rehearsed with a child.
- The presence of unusual hazards in the home
- Child feeling confident and safe when left alone

CHILDREN AGE 7 AND UNDER SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME

CHILDREN AGES 8-10 SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS

CHILDREN AGES 11-13 SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE FOR MORE THAN 12 HOURS

CHILDREN AGES 14-15 SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS

CHILDREN AGES 16-17 MAY BE LEFT ALONE FOR OVER 24 HOURS WITH A PLAN IN PLACE CONCERNING HOW TO RESPOND TO AN EMERGENCY.

CHILDREN SUPERVISING CHILDREN

Children under the age of 11 should not provide child care for other children.

Children ages 11-15 who are placed in a child care role are subject to the time restrictions of being left alone as listed in the Age Specific Guidelines.

Children ages 16-17 may act as a child care provider for more than 24 hours with adequate adult back up supervision.