

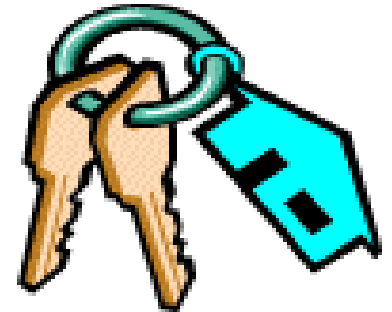
# Home Alone

## Guidelines for Parents

The Oneida County Department of Social Services suggests that parents read this information before they make decisions about leaving a child home alone. It is also important to read this information before allowing older children to baby-sit.

The Oneida County Department of Social Services understands that every family is different and works with each family individually.

Wisconsin State Statutes do not specifically address the age and circumstances when a child can be left without adult supervision. This pamphlet is to be used as a guide for parents and/or caregivers to determine if their child may be ready to be home alone or ready to baby-sit.



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Oneida County Department  
of Social Services  
Rhineland, Wisconsin

## Things for Parents to Consider when Deciding if a Child is Ready to be Home Alone or Ready to Baby-sit

How mature is your child?

Does your child:

- Know to Dial 911 in an emergency?
- Know how to tell time?
- Solve small problems but know when to get outside help?
- Know what to do if the telephone or doorbell rings?
- Recognize potential danger in and outside the home?
- Successfully complete other job responsibilities around the home?
- Has your child successfully completed a "Home Alone" or "Babysitting Preparation" class?



## Is your child socially and emotionally ready to stay alone or baby-sit?

Does your child:

- Obey household and school rules?
- Understand consequences of rule violations involving friends and playtime?
- Feel confident enough to contact an adult if a problem arises?
- Solve routine conflicts with siblings?
- Talk easily about school activities and his/her feelings?
- Seem confident and secure about being home alone or "in charge"?
- Feel comfortable being home alone at night?
- Know how to appropriately handle loneliness, boredom or fear?



## Are you as a parent ready for your child to stay alone or baby-sit?

- Do you feel comfortable and confident about your child staying home alone or babysitting? (Are there economic or job related pressures to leave your child home alone? Is there pressure from your child to be left alone without adult supervision?)
- Are you ready for your child's increased freedom & independence?
- Is the neighborhood safe?
- Is your home safe?
- Have you posted important phone numbers for your child too easily find?
- Are you comfortable with the amount of self-care time and the time of day your child will be home alone?
- Have you established clear expectations and household rules?
- Does your child have special medical/physical/emotional needs?