

Latchkey Children Safety

Created by Fire PALS
Waterloo Fire Rescue



What is a Latchkey Kid?

latchkey child

Main Entry:

latchkey child

Function:

noun

: a school-aged child of working parents who must spend part of the day unsupervised (as at home) —

Home Alone



Parents not home on time

Feelings of being home alone

- **Good:**

Confident

Independent



- **Bad**

Anxious

Afraid



Ways to alleviate anxiety



- Go straight home.
- Avoid walking or playing alone.
- Have your own house key and keep it in a safe place.
- Have a house key hidden outside the home in a safe location when possible; never retrieve the key when others are looking.
- Discuss rules with your parents ahead of time and make a schedule of activities for you to complete while you are home alone.



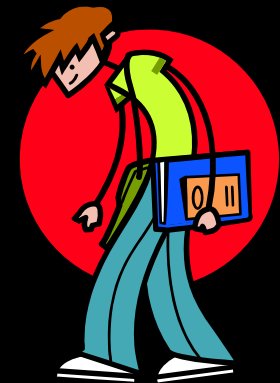
When arriving home

- Don't go inside the house if it looks funny.
- Go to a neighbor's house and phone your contact person.



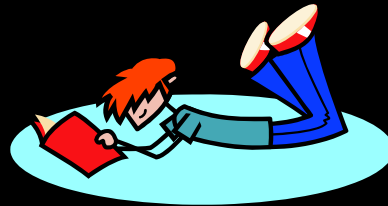
Upon arriving home

- Lock the door after you get inside and call parent or contact person to let them know that you are home.
- Don't let anyone in the house when alone, not even a friend without prior parent permission.



Responsible home alone behaviors

- Healthy snack, homework, chores, hobbies



Irresponsible home alone behaviors



- *Letting others know you are home alone, making large messes, having friends over without permission, stuffing your face full of sweets and unhealthy snacks, cooking on the stove without permission, snooping around.*

Stranger Danger



- If someone tries to force themselves into your house—make noise, turn up the tv, have a safe room that can be locked and has a phone, call 911.

If someone unexpectedly tries to pick you up from school:

- Prearrange with a parent to have a code word or phrase that ensures permission.
- Never get into a car with a person or a stranger that doesn't know the code word/phrase.



The purple elephant always flies at night.

If lonely, bored or scared

- Call contact person or friend



Prepare for being home alone

- *Know what to do in an emergency*

Lights go out



Cut your finger

Plumbing leak

Burn your hand on toaster

Smell of smoke or gas/hear smoke detectors

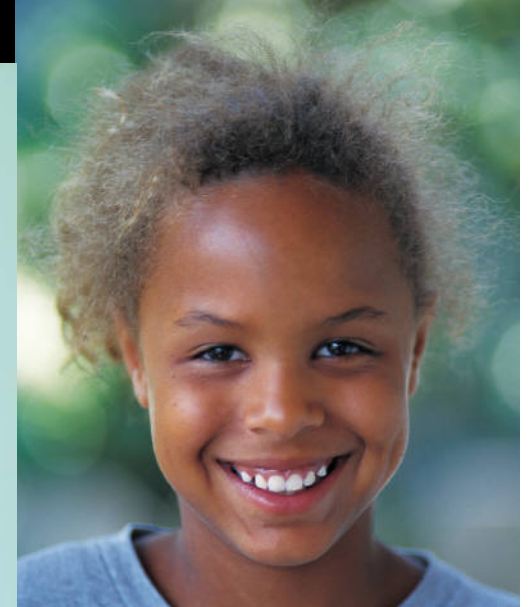
Know your basic information

- Address and phone number
- Parents full names
- Have parents work number, cell phone number and emergency contact by the phone
- Know when and how to call 911



Review of basic fire safety

- *Soothe a burn with cool water*
- *Stop, drop and roll*
- *Home escape plan- 2 ways out*
- *Crawl low under smoke*



*This information was brought to you by
Waterloo Fire Rescue in partnership
with Waterloo Community Schools and
Cedar Valley Catholic Schools.*



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