The National SAFEKIDS Campaign recommends that no child under the age of 12 be left at home alone.

Texas law has no age limit or length of time that child can be left at home.

READY, SET, SOLO!

Once your child is ready to be left alone for a few hours, share these SAFETY TIPS with them and discuss your expectations and their concerns.

CHECKLIST

- LOCK THE DOOR
- SET THE ALRAM
- CHECK-IN WITH PARENT
- TURN LIGHTS ON AFTER DARK
- DO HOMEWORK AND/OR CHORES
- Your child should carry the house key with them at all times. DO NOT label the key with your address or phone number in case it gets lost. Instruct your child to have the key in their hand when they arrive home.
- Tell your child NEVER to enter the house if something looks suspicious - a door ajar or a window is open or broken. If something appears awry, have a backup plan with a neighbor/relative.
- If someone calls or stops by the house, your child should NEVER reveal they are home alone. Provide your child with verbiage, such as "My mom is busy in the kitchen, can I take a message?"
- Your child should NEVER open the door for any reason. Even if someone claims "your mom and dad told me to come get you," your child should know to ask for a code word that you agreed to ahead of time.
- Make sure your child knows basic first-aid and fire safety, including how to call 9-1-1. He/she must know how to provide their full address and stay on the phone with the operator.



CARE FOR THEMSELVES OF LATCHKEY KIDS COME FROM MIDDLE OR UPPER CLASS

Whether a child is home alone for an hour or even the whole afternoon, it's extremely important to develop a safety plan.

K - FIFTH GRADERS

AFTER SCHOOL

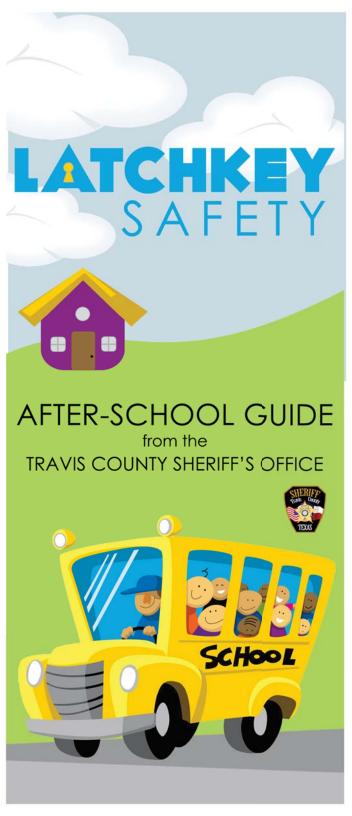
RESOURCES

www.aacap.org www.kidshealth.org www.parenting.org



TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 1748 / Austin, TX 78767 512.854.9770 / www.tcsheriff.org



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HELPFULNUMBERS

DISPLAY THIS USEFUL CONTACT NUMBER LIST ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR OR ANOTHER COMMON AREA.

MAKE SURE IT IS VISIBLE AND YOUR CHILD KNOWS WHERE IT IS.

NUMBERS TO CALL IN EMERGENCIES

NUMBERS OF HELPERS

CALL **9-1-1** FOR EMERGENCIES Parent 1: Police: Parent 2: Fire Department: Relative 1: Poison Control: Relative 2: Neighbor 1: **OUR ADDRESS:** Neighbor 2: Doctor: Veterinarian: **NOTES:**