

Deciding when youngsters are ready to be home alone really depends on their maturity level, ability to follow directions, response to unexpected situations, and emotional comfort at being on their own. When they are ready, the following guidelines will help both parents and children feel more assured:

☐ Post emergency telephone numbers ☐

Be sure child understands how to report a 911 emergency
Designate an emergency contact

- ☐ Be sure a reliable neighbor knows your child is home alone ☐ Rehearse emergency procedures
- ☐ Be mindful about putting an older child in charge of siblings
 - Instruct child never to open the door for strangers
 - ☐ Be clear about various rules for being home alone ☐ Check on your child frequently

