



Is it ever okay to leave your child HOME ALONE???

... there is no simple answer, but **REMEMBER...**

Parents or guardians have the legal responsibility to:

- Supervise & control their child.
- Provide for their child the basic necessities of life, including: food, shelter, clothing, medical care and legal help when required.

■ Many children are not mature enough to stay home alone until they are at least 12 years old. No specific age recommendation can be given because it depends on the individual child. Some 10 year olds are very responsible and are able to stay at home for a short time after school until a parent comes home. Yet, there are some teenagers who can never be trusted to be home alone.

■ Even if your child exhibits qualities of maturity, a child deserves a CHILDHOOD and should not be thrust into the world of adult responsibilities and pressure before their time. Every child should have time each day to enjoy friends and carefree time. They should be able to participate in sports, music lessons, clubs of interest, or just to play.

Here are some questions to consider before allowing your child to stay home alone:

- Will your child follow house rules when you are not there?
- Does this put too much pressure on the child?
- Does your child have the self-motivation to study and complete homework assignments without supervision?
- How does your child handle feelings of stress?

- Will your child be able to remain calm during an emergency?
- Can your child prepare a healthy snack or meal for him or herself?



These tips courtesy of:

Allen County Children Services
419-227-8590
123 W. Spring St.
Lima, Ohio 45801