

How Old is Old Enough?

As a parent you may often wonder at what age your child can be left unsupervised or can baby-sit other children. The following are some things to consider for leaving your child unattended or allowing them to baby-sit other children.

- The maturity level and behavior of your child.
- The availability of a parent, guardian, or caretaker by phone or in person.
- Your child's status with regard to physical and mental health.
- Your child's awareness of the dangers of appliance use (stove, iron) or unusual hazards in the home.
- Discussion of an escape plan or fire drill participation with your child.
- Discuss the locations of your smoke detectors with your child.
(Remember to check your batteries twice a year!)
- What is your child's reaction to being left alone?
- What are the ages of the children your child is caring for and their behavior?
- Consider enrolling your child in a baby-sitting clinic. Check your community education booklet or call your child's school.

Le Sueur County
Department of Human Services
88 South Park Avenue
Le Center, MN 56057-1646

General County Information
507-357-2251

Department of Human Services
Phone 507-357-8288
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How Old is Old
Enough?



An Informational
brochure for
Le Sueur County
Parents about
kids being left
home alone and
caring for other
children

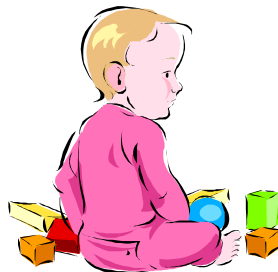
Age Related Guidelines

- ⇒ Children age 7 and under should not be left alone for any period of time.
- ⇒ Children ages 8 -10 may not be left alone for more than three hours
- ⇒ Children ages 11-13 may not be left alone for more than 12 hours.
- ⇒ Children ages 14 -15 may not be left alone for more than 24 hours
- ⇒ Children ages 16 -17 may be left alone for over 24 hours with a plan in place concerning how to respond to an emergency.



Caring for other children

- ◆ Children under age 11 should not provide child care.
- ◆ Children ages 11-15 who are placed in a child care role are subject to the same time restrictions of being left alone as listed above.
- ◆ Children ages 16 -17 may be left alone for more than 24 hours with adequate adult back up supervision.



Information included in this brochure was taken from the Recommended Minnesota Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines and is based on Minnesota Statutes. The Screening Guide is used to review calls to Child Protection. These guidelines will determine when a report will be screened in to child protection for assessment.

If you are aware of a child who may be unsupervised please call the Intake worker for Child Protection at Le Sueur County Human Services 507-357-8288. After hours or on weekends please call your local law enforcement agency and they can do a welfare check.