



This information has been prepared by  
Winona County  
Community Services.

It is intended to provide guidelines  
for residents in Winona County.

If you have any additional  
questions please contact:

WINONA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
202 WEST 3RD STREET  
WINONA, MN 55987  
507-457-6500

For information on  
childcare options  
contact:

Child Care Resource & Referral  
1-800-462-1660

or  
Winona County  
Community Services  
507-457-6500

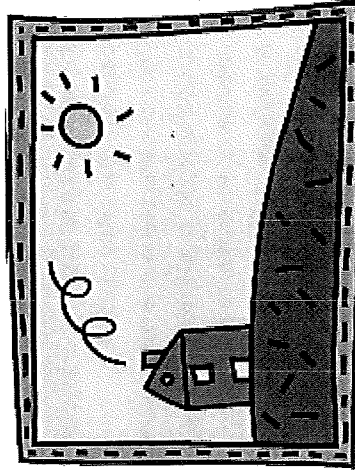


WINONA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
202 WEST 3RD STREET  
WINONA, MN 55987  
507-457-6500  
FAX: 507-454-9381



DON'T LEAVE HOME  
WITHOUT THEM,

OR...  
UNTIL YOU READ THIS  
BROCHURE



A GUIDELINE  
FOR SUPERVISION  
OF CHILDREN





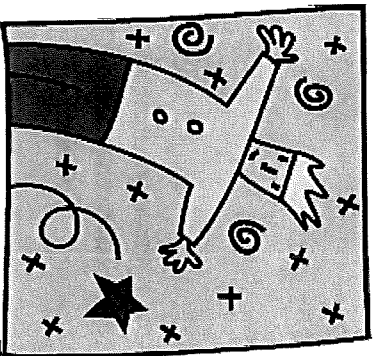
## HOW OLD IS OLD ENOUGH?

*As a parent you often wonder at what age your child can be left unsupervised or can baby-sit other children. The following are some factors to consider when deciding to leave your child unattended or allowing them to baby-sit other children.*

- A child's age, mental ability and maturity level.
- The ability of a child to reach a parent/guardian or designated caretaker by phone or in person.
- A child has developmental delays or problem solving difficulties, psychological problems, or mental health concerns (anxiety, anger management issues, extreme impulsivity, etc.)
- A child has medical problems or physical disabilities that might interfere.
- The behavioral history of a child, including suicidal thoughts or actions, fire setting, delinquency, vandalism, or assault.
- A child's age, if using kitchen stove, an iron, or other appliance.
- A plan for escaping the house in case of fire or other danger that is understood by the child and has been practiced. A working fire/smoke detector must be present in the home.
- The presence in the home of any unusual hazards (for example: space heaters, a busy street, hard to handle animals, or a very isolated location).



## AGE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES



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



## SUPERVISION BY OLDER CHILDREN...GUIDELINES

- Children under age 11 should not provide childcare.
- 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.
- Consider enrolling your child in a babysitting clinic. Check your Community Education catalog or call your child's school.

