

This pamphlet has been prepared by the Brown County Child Protection unit.

It is intended to be used as a guide for the parents of Brown County.

These supervision guidelines follow the criteria of the Minnesota Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines.

If you have additional questions, please contact:

Brown County Family Services

(507) 354-8246

Or

1-800-450-8246

Brown County Human Services

1117 Center Street

P.O. Box 788

New Ulm, MN 56073

Supervision Guidelines for Parents



July 2019

How Old Is Enough?

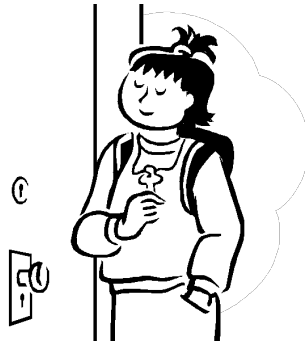
As a parent, you want to make safe decisions about the supervision and child care arrangements for your children. You might wonder at what age a child can be left unsupervised? Or, how old do kids need to be to babysit for other children?

Consider the following:

- ✓ Child's age, mental ability and maturity level.
- ✓ Accessibility of the parent (or designated adult) to the child by phone or in person.
- ✓ Behaviors, intellectual problems, or disabilities of the child.
- ✓ Well understood emergency plans.
- ✓ Child feeling confident and **safe** when left alone.

Age Specific Guidelines

- ✓ Children age 7 and under should not be left alone for any period of time.
- ✓ Children ages 8-10 should not be left alone for more than three hours.
- ✓ Children ages 11-13 should not be left alone for more than 12 hours.
- ✓ Children ages 14-15 should not be left alone for more than 24 hours.
- ✓ Children ages 16-17 may be left alone for over 24 hours with adequate adult back up supervision.



Children

Supervising

Children

Children under age 11 **should not** provide child care for other children.

Children ages 11-15 acting in a child care role are subject to same time restrictions as listed in the Age Specific Guidelines.

Children ages 16-17 may act as a child care provided for more than 24 hours with adequate adult back up supervision.