

# Who can babysit tonight?

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## When can I leave my child alone?

The Child and Family Services Act states

...no person having charge of a child less than 16 years of age shall leave the child without making provision for his or her supervision and care that is reasonable in the circumstances...

## What should parents do?

The Children's Aid Society recommends that children less than 10 years of age not be left alone.

The parent/adult in charge must make sure that the supervision and care is sufficient for the child.

## Parents should consider

In considering whether a child under the age of 16 can be left unattended for a period of time, the parent should consider the following

- child's age
- child's developmental level
- child's ability to communicate
- time of day
- length of time the child will be alone
- amount of responsibility required of the child
- child's level of competence
- accessibility of parents/adults/ friends and neighbours if assistance is required
- safety of home environment and neighbourhood
- child's ability to handle previous similar situations

talk to your children...

discuss their feelings about being left on their own...

only you can decide whether they can handle it!

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Children's Aid Society  
LONDON & MIDDLESEX  
La Société d'aide à l'enfance