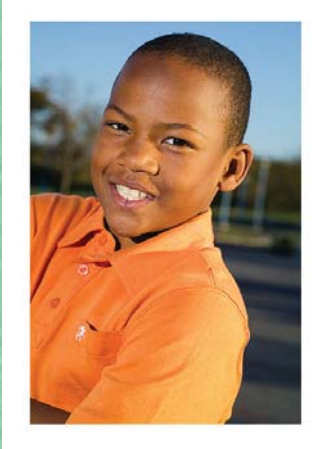


# Leaving a Child at Home Alone



## *When is it OK? Ask yourself...*

- *Is your child physically and mentally able to care for himself / herself?*
- *Does your child obey rules and make good decisions?*
- *Does your child feel comfortable or fearful about being home alone?*
- *Is your home safe and free of hazards?*
- *Does your child know where you are and how to contact you at all times?*

## *Make a plan!*

- *Have a trial period. Leave the child alone for a short time while staying close to home.*
- *Role play. Act out possible situations.*
- *Establish rules. Make sure your child knows what is (and is not) allowed when you are not home.*
- *Check in. Call your child while you are away.*
- *Don't overdo it. Even a mature, responsible child shouldn't be home alone too much.*

These parenting tips are courtesy of **Franklin County Children Services** where we advocate for each child's safety, permanency and well-being.

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Protecting Children by Strengthening Families