Older children home alone

Tip Sheet: Child Safety

When deciding if your child is old or mature enough to stay home alone, it’s useful to consider the following questions:

Tip 1
Do they feel comfortable and confident about being left alone?

Tip 2
Can they use the telephone?

Tip 3
Do they know how to keep themselves safe? For example, do they know not to answer the door or not to swim in the pool?

Tip 4
Are they mature enough to handle any problems that might arise like a fire or injury?

Tip 5
Do they have any illnesses, such as asthma, that may make it unsafe for them to be alone?

Tip 6
Do they know appropriate adults in your local area who they can contact for help?

Tip 7
Do they know how to access emergency services by ringing 000?

Tip 8
How long will you be away? There is a big difference between you going to the shop for a few minutes and being gone for several hours.

Tip 9
Who else is in the house?

There is no specific law in Victoria that says what age children can be left alone. Victorian law is clear however, that it is a parent’s responsibility to ensure that their children are appropriately and safely cared for.

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE