

Home Alone



Bold Text: suggested words to say to teach lesson
Italics: suggested actions to take
(Parenthesis): background information or suggested answers

After “Check First,” the remaining lessons may be covered in any order.

Materials Needed for Lesson

- Charlie Check-First poster
- 3 Steps poster
- Key on lanyard
- Reinforcement Activities (optional)
- Letter to the Parents/Guardian

Objectives for Students

- State a home alone safety rule for the door and one for the phone.
- Discuss five mistakes that can be made when home alone and how to correct them.
- Name emergency numbers to keep by the phone.
- Name four safe things to do when home alone.
- Explain a safety rule for use of the Internet.

✧ *Always start with a review of the Check First concept!*

Lesson

Many of you are home alone at different times and there are rules to follow to keep you safe. How many of you feel that you are Safety Kids when you are home alone?

I am going to read to you some situations. The girl in these situations is not a Safety Kid. Pay attention to what she does that is unsafe.

Get responses and discuss them as you go.

Situation #1:

A girl is walking home from school by herself. She is still far from her house when she pulls the key to the front door from her pocket and begins swinging it around.

Points to discuss:

Is it OK to swing the key around like this? Why or why not?

Keep your key hidden until you get home.

1. Keep your key out of sight until you reach the door.
2. It is best not to let other people know that you will be home alone.
3. It is not a safe practice to keep a key under the doormat or in a mailbox.
4. If the door is unlocked or open when you get there, do not go in!

Situation #2:

When the girl arrived home, she went to use the key on the front door and found the door open and she went inside.

Points to discuss:

Make sure that when you get in the house you immediately shut and lock the door. It's a good idea to do that with the windows, also. You may then want to check in with someone.

Who are some people you may want to check with when you get home? (Mom, Dad, guardian, neighbor, your Safety Person)

Situation #3:

The girl went inside her house and left the door unlocked.

Points to discuss:

It is important to keep the door closed to everyone. (This includes service or repair people, someone whose car broke down, someone who claims to need help, people you have seen before or know, etc. Unless a parent tells them specifically that they are to do this, the students should just keep the door closed.)

Situation #4:

The girl was hungry and made a sandwich, she used a knife to cut the sandwich in half and left the sharp knife pointing out over the counter.

Points to discuss:

What are some rules for kitchen safety when you are home alone? (Do not use stoves, sharp knives, or microwaves unless you have received instruction and have permission, etc.)

Situation #5:

While eating her sandwich, she used the internet to do homework. She gave out her personal information to include her address on a website.

Points to discuss:

It is not a safe idea to give out personal information online. Make it up—use a fake name, address, etc. It is very easy for someone to track you down and find out who you are and where you live with even the smallest piece of true information. Discuss with your parent what information you can give out online and what websites you are allowed to use.

Situation #6:

She used her mother's credit card to order something on the Internet without permission.

Points to discuss:

Online purchases should only be done with the help of a parent. There is a lot involved when making online purchases to include making sure the website is legitimate. It is not a safe idea to give out personal information online. It is very easy for someone to track you down and find out who you are and where you live with even the smallest piece of true information. Discuss with your parent what information you can give out online and what websites you are allowed to use.

Situation #7:

She answered the phone and said no one was home.

Points to discuss:

What is the safest thing to do if the phone rings? (Just "Let it ring! Let it ring! Let it ring!" Let the answering machine or voice mail pick it up. This way no one knows you are home alone. There are so many reasons why people do not answer the phone: on the computer, on the other line, caller ID, etc. So it is OK to just let it ring.

Address the correct way to take a message if their parent is not home and their parent wants them to answer the phone. For example:

"My mom can't talk with you right now. May I take a message and she will call you back?"

There are several benefits to using this method.

1. You have not lied.
2. You found out who it is.
3. By taking a message the person will not call back in another fifteen minutes, as they might if you said Mom is in the shower.

Situation #8:

She opened the door when she heard the doorbell.

Points to discuss:

Keep the door closed and locked for everyone. Imagine that you are watching TV. You hear the doorbell. You try to secretly see who it is , but the person sees you. Do you now need to open the door or talk to the person? (No. Never open the door unless you have been instructed to do so ahead of time by your parents.)

What should you do if someone you know comes to your door when you are home alone? It does not matter if it is a delivery person, a neighbor, a soccer coach, or your teacher. It does not matter if you know the person or not. It does not matter if the person saw you and knows you are in the house. Keep the door shut and locked for everyone.

What should you do if someone comes to the door and says there is an emergency or a car break-down and needs to use the phone? (Keep the door shut and locked with the person outside. Call your parent or neighbor to find out what to do.)

If someone at the door won't go away, use the phone. Who could you call? (parent, neighbor, 911, etc.) **What are some emergency numbers that you should keep by your phone?** (police, fire, Mom's work, Dad's work, neighbor, poison center)

Situation #9:

A delivery person was at the door with a package. She told him that no one was home. The deliver person asked the girl to sign for the package.

Points to discuss:

Same as Situation #8. (It is not best to let anyone know you are there alone in the first place. Secondly, unless your parent tells you specifically that the package is coming and you need to sign, do not sign.)

Closure

Now that we have seen a lot of things that you should NOT do, what are some safe things that you CAN do? (Read, do homework, work on a craft, play an instrument, watch parentally-approved TV, visit parentally-approved web sites, stay inside the house, do not have friends come over)

☆ **Remember, when you are home alone it is important to follow all of the Safety Kids' rules. Check First! And if you cannot check, then follow the 3 Steps. Evaluate the entire situation, think carefully, and "Be a Safety Kid!"**

Use the Reinforcement Activities now or at a later time for review. They may be done individually or in small groups.

Be sure to read and discuss the story in # 3.

Be a Safety Kid!





Home Alone
Reinforcement Activity #1

Cyber-Safety



Brian used the computer to go on the Internet while he was home alone. **Is he a Safety Kid?** Read and decide.

- A** Brian is on-line in a chat room. He is talking with *friends* that he has never met; he only knows them on-line. He uses a false name and address because he knows that is the safest thing to do. But in the conversation he says that he is home alone every Monday after school. He is sure that this is OK because no one really knows who he is and where he lives. What do you think?

- B** Brian found a great web site for music and they are offering lots of special deals if you order now. It says that it is a secure line so there should be no problem in using a credit card. He goes to look for his mom's credit card. What do you think about this?



Home Alone Reinforcement Activity # 2

You be the Judge!



Read the situation and judge if the person is **acting in the safest way**. Circle the word that describes how you feel.

1. Kevin is home alone when he hears a knock on the door. The person at the door says that he or she needs to come inside to check the phone line. He can see through the window that this person is dressed in a uniform and is driving a truck that belongs to his phone company. He opens the door to ask the person for a badge. Is he a Safety Kid?

yes

no

not sure

Why?

2. When Kelly arrived home from school, she left the door wide open to get some fresh air in the house. She was hungry so she decided to make some microwave popcorn. Is she a Safety Kid?

yes

no

not sure

Why?

3. Shauna is staying home by herself when an emergency happens. She immediately calls 911 and tells the operator her name, age, address, phone number, and the type of emergency. Is she a Safety Kid?

yes

no

not sure

Why?



Home Alone Reinforcement Activity # 3

Find the words from the word list and circle them. They may go across, down, diagonal, forward or backwards.



Word List

alone	first	parent
answer	home	phone
check	inside	ring
door	lock	safety kid
emergency	neighbor	television



Home Alone

Reinforcement Activity # 3 answers

Find the words from the word list and circle them. They may go across, down, diagonal, forward or backwards.



Word List

alone
answer
check
door
emergency

first
home
inside
lock
neighbor

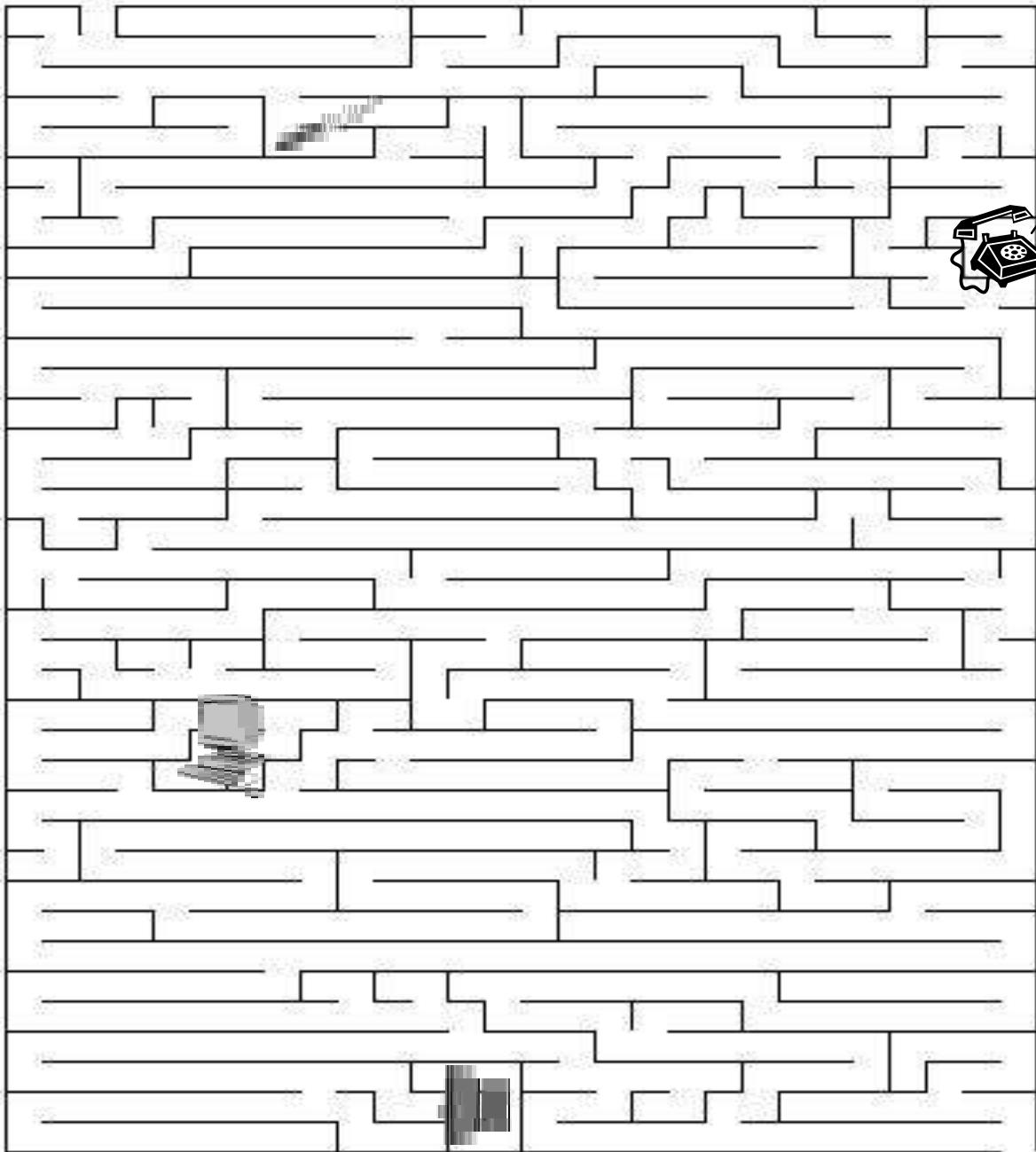
parent
phone
ring
safety kid
television



Home Alone
Reinforcement Activity # 4

Can you get through the maze of home alone hazards safely?

ENTER



EXIT



Reinforcement Activities Home alone

Choose one or more of these activities to use.



Home Alone Journal

Students create a Home Alone journal made out of blank sheets of paper. Students illustrate the cover page for their booklet. Have the class brainstorm ideas of things they could put in their journals when they are home alone and have students list them in the back of their journals for reference. They can write daily entries in their journal.

Materials needed: two sheets of drawing paper per student, five or more sheets of writing paper per student, pens, pencils, crayons, markers



Can Do/Cannot Do

What do you do once you are home and the door is locked and you are alone? Have students brainstorm for things they can/cannot do. Use ✓ and ⊗ for headings. Example:

Can ✓: read, do homework, watch approved television, play a solitary game.

Cannot ⊗: cook on the stove, talk on the phone, play outside.

Students may illustrate a Can Do/Cannot Do picture after the list is formed.

Materials needed: paper, pencils, crayons, markers



Home Alone Activity List

Use the master of the Key and copy it onto sturdy paper. Give one to each child and have individuals write on the key and list different safe activities they could do when home alone. Punch a hole in the top and attach a string. Instruct the children to hang it someplace where they can easily find it when they are home alone and need something to do.

Materials needed: master of Key, pens, pencils, hole punch, string

