





# Making child care arrangements

-  Ask for at least two references and check them carefully
-  Choose someone who is over 16 years and mature
-  All childminders should be registered with OFSTED, for a list contact Opportunity Links (details shown below)
-  If you have any doubts about the person caring for your children or your children seem unhappy find someone else

## Advice and Help

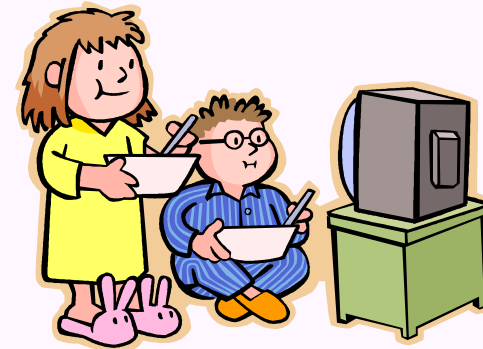
NSPCC - 0808 800 5000  
Opportunity Links - 0800 2989121  
National Council for One Parent Families - 020 7428 5400  
National Child Minding Association - 020 8464 6164  
Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents - 0121 248 200

PSCB Website:  
[www.pscb.org.uk](http://www.pscb.org.uk)

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# Who's looking after the kids?




When is it ok to **leave** children on their own or in charge of other children?





# Don't Forget

 Never leave babies or young children home alone (whether asleep or awake) not even for a few minutes


 Most children under 13 years are not mature enough to cope with an emergency. They should not be left alone or in charge of other children (even younger brothers or sisters) for more than a very short time


 No child or young person under 16 years should be left alone overnight


 If leaving older children is unavoidable, make sure they know what to do if there is a problem. Leave a list of who they can go to or telephone. Remove obvious dangers such as sharp objects, matches and medicines


 Teenagers should feel happy about being left and know how to contact emergency services. Leave a number where they can contact you

# The Law

 There is no clear statement of the age that children can be left alone

 Parents who leave their children unsupervised could be prosecuted for wilful neglect or become subject to a child protection enquiry by the police and social services if their children suffer harm or injury

 The law does not give an age when young people can baby-sit. However, if a babysitter is under 16 years, parents remain legally responsible for the safety of their children

 It is recommended that no one under 16 should be left to look after a young child

**Neglect is when a parent or carer fails to meet child's needs, including proper supervision.**