

# Building Strong Families

## Safety Counts

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### Tips to keep you from being locked out

Keep a key on a string clipped to your jeans or around your neck. Don't hide an extra key near the front door. Leave it with a contact person or put it in a secret place in an unlocked outbuilding.

### What to do if the doorbell rings

Some parents do not want their children to answer the door at all when an adult is not at home. Discuss what to do. If it is OK to answer the door, here are some good rules to remember:

Make sure the doors are always locked.

- Look through the window or peephole to see who is there.
- Don't give the impression you are home alone.
- Talk through the door to find out who it is and what he or she wants.
- Don't be fooled by someone asking to use your phone or bathroom. Tell the person no. If the person wants to use your bathroom, tell him or her to go to the nearest service station. If the person wants to use your phone, tell him or her how to get to a neighbor's house, a public phone or a phone in an outbuilding.
- Don't let anyone, even if it is someone you know, into the house unless your parents have told you to expect that person.
- If delivery or repair people unexpectedly show up at your door, tell them you are busy and please come back later, or have them leave the package by the door or with a neighbor.
- If you are expecting delivery or repair people, have them slip an ID card under the door if possible. This way you can check the card to see if you should let them into your house. Ask your parents what to look for on an identification card.
- If the person is someone you know, or if the person says your parents asked him or her to stop by, call your parents to check. Stay on the line with your parent until the person at the door leaves.
- If someone continues knocking and does not go away, call a neighbor or the police for help.
- Above all, don't feel badly when you do not let people into your house.