Building Strong Families

Safety Outside and Inside Your Home

Tips to keep you from being locked out

- Keep a key on a string or chain clipped to your jeans or around your neck.

- Don't hide an extra key near the front door. Leave it with a friend. Or put it in a secret place where no one would look.

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. Talk about what to do. If it is okay 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 let the person at the door think you are home alone.

- Talk through the door or locked screen 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. Tell a person who wants to use your bathroom to go to the nearest gas station. Tell a person who wants to use your phone how to get to a neighbor's house or a public phone.

- 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 show up without warning, tell them you are busy. Ask them to come back later. Or have them leave the package by the door or with a neighbor.

• If you expect delivery or repair people, ask them to slip an ID card under the door if possible or hold it up to the window. Then you can check the card to see if you should let them into your house. Check the ID to make sure the person looks like the ID picture and comes from the place he/she says.

• If the person is someone you don’t know well, or if the person says your parents asked him or her to stop by, call your parents to check. If you decide not to let him/her in, stay on the line with your parent until the person at the door leaves.

• If someone keeps on knocking and won’t go away, call a neighbor or the police for help.

• Above all, don't be embarrassed when you do not let people into your house.