



Parent Mentors share ideas and resources with one another on a daily basis. [Terri Goodridge](#), mom of a young son receiving special education related services and a Bibb County Parent Mentor, files our parents' tips in categories, so she can share information.

HOME ALONE

Children with Special Needs being left Home Alone

Over the past 2-3 months, I noticed this issue being discussed over the parent mentor list serve. So, it is an obvious area of great interest to many of our families whose children may be approaching that chronological age to be left home alone, but perhaps may not be emotionally, intellectually, physically or behaviorally ready for this. Allison Stevenson, from Fayette County had questions around whether or not there are any laws around this issue.

The law for leaving children alone, as I have been told, is as follows: 9 -12 based on level of maturity can be left alone for brief periods of time 13 and up who are at an adequate level of maturity can be left alone for up to 12 hours. But what about for SWD's? There was nothing that addressed this specifically.

Thanks to Parent Mentor, Nancy Grabe, for having this discussion with her Special ED. Director. They came up with a preliminary letter that can be sent home with a child's transport provider.

[Click here for Letter](#)



In addition, Jackie McNair, fellow Parent Mentor, provided us with a list she obtained from State Department of Human Resources. The attached document is a Lack of Supervision Reference Guide. A perfect list to look at carefully when faced with the question, "Do I leave my child home alone yet, or not?"

[Click Here for Guide](#)

Thanks to the many parent mentors who gave us advice, suggestions and resources to use and ponder. This is a very tough decision that any parent has to make. Sooner or later, we are all going to have to make this decision.