

Tips4 Protecting Kids

After School Activities



1.
Make sure you know who the coach/ teacher is and have their contact details. Connect with them in person as much as you can before and after your child's activity.

2.
Get to know some of the other parents and keep in contact.

3.
Ask your child's school or the overriding sports organisation if the coach is covered under a Child Protection Policy or a Code of Conduct and whether they have been police vetted.

4.
If you have any concerns, call Child Matters on 07 838 3370 for a free consultation.



Staying Home Alone

Under NZ law, children can be left home alone if they are 14 years or older. However, there are other factors parents and caregivers are required to consider to ensure it is safe and reasonable to do so. Leaving a young person alone or in charge of young children is an important decision. If in doubt – don't go out!

1.
Is the young person mature enough and capable of making good decisions?

2.
Can they get help if they need it or is there an adult they can call in an emergency?

3.
How does the young person feel about being left alone or in charge of a young child or children?

4.
Are they able to give reasonable supervision and care to other children left with them?



Sleepovers

Having sleepovers can be an exciting part of a child's upbringing. It is important to keep some things in mind to make sure your children are safe and well looked after while they are away from home. If you don't feel it will be safe leaving your child at the sleepover, make up an excuse and take your child home.

1.
Make sure you have the contact details of the caregiver.

2.
Ask the caregiver who the other adults and children are that will be staying over.

3.
Ask what activities are planned e.g. if there are movies, are they age appropriate?

4.
Have a safety plan with your child. Do they have a way of contacting you if they feel unsafe?

