

THE LATCHKEY KIDS

Millions of American children between ages five and thirteen are “latchkey children” — kids who care for themselves for an hour or more a day with no adult supervision. The name “latchkey” kid refers to the tell-tale key, attached to a chain or piece of twine, and worn around the neck.

THE LATCHKEY KIDS analyzes the fact that most parents who make the decision to let children care for themselves work outside of the home. Many are single parents who cannot afford or find other day care arrangements or who have elected to leave the child alone for personal reasons.



The Community Resource Development (CRD) staff of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service is concerned that certain safety precautions be taken. A carefully considered set of rules, emergency procedures, and backup systems should be developed and discussed with the child so that he or she is aware of what is expected by the parent. The main issue for a parent to evaluate in deciding if a child can function as a latchkey kid is whether the child is capable of following agreed upon rules, completing homework, and accomplishing chores.

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Suggested Uses:

To provide select audiences with accurate, current knowledge of a latchkey kid. To provide an educational program to serve as an introduction piece for audience discussion.

Recommended For:

Community and corporate crime prevention and rehabilitation programs, colleges, universities, school PTA's, and 4-H youth programs. In addition, Chambers of Commerce and merchant associations.

Producers:

Syndistar, Inc.
648 Hickory Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70123
Phone: 1-800-841-9532

CONCLUSION

The latchkey arrangement is not for everyone. It is not a choice that should be made lightly and requires careful planning. The Community Resource Development Program, as a part of its crime prevention programming effort, purchased from Syndistar, Inc. **THE LATCHKEY KIDS** in VCR format.

It is hoped that the program will serve as a stimulus for discussion and a resource to raise parent and community awareness to help children develop survival skills. Detailed questions concerning any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD program.



Community Resource
Development

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