

What should I do when my child ignores curfew?

Set expectations about leaving home, being home on time for meals and when to be home in the evening. Make certain that your child understands that being late frightens and causes concern for the family. Require your child to call and keep you informed of their location.

When giving your child permission to leave the home, make sure you know their location, a contact number to reach them in case of an emergency, and tell them what time they need to be home. Have your child repeat back the time they need to be home.

Make certain your child understands that the privilege of being away from home is dependent upon letting you know where they are at all times, following the rules while they are gone and coming home on time.

Suggest that your child keep track of time by asking an adult, looking at their watch, etc... Allow natural consequences (missing dinner, not being allowed to leave home next time, etc.) to occur due to your child's leaving home without permission or not coming home on time. Be consistent with the consequence each time your child ignores curfew.

Be sure that babysitters, grandparents, and visitors in your home are aware of the rules about curfew. Your child's behavior should determine how much freedom they are given to come and go from day to day.