

River Forest Police Department
ISEARCH Safety Education Program

4th Grade class on Home Alone Safety and Internet Safety

Recently, a police officer and instructors from the ISEARCH Safety Program of the River Forest Police Department met with your child to teach a safety class on home alone safety and internet safety.

We considered the following:

Home Alone Safety

1. Ground rules from parents about staying home alone, when, how long, cooking and snacking, chores, doing homework, how to use the telephone, going online, watching TV, having friends over.
2. Having a list of important phone numbers by the phone (parents' work numbers, cell phone numbers).
3. Planning for unusual things that don't happen each time someone is home alone, but might happen: what to do with smoke or fire in the home, how to answer the phone when home alone, and how to answer a knock at the door when home alone. Our recommendation is that children answer the door (not open it, but go to the door and speak through the door to the person there, asking what they want, then asking them to leave). We do not recommend that children stay quiet when alone at home because of the possibility that the person knocking at the door is a burglar checking if the home is empty. We encouraged your child to call 911 anytime they are home alone and feel scared or uncomfortable.

Internet Safety

We encouraged your child to stay safe when online in these ways:

1. When playing games online or when in game chat rooms, do not give out personal information such as their name, address, school or town.
2. Get in the habit of logging out of accounts.
3. Get permission from parents before downloading anything.
4. Be careful and considerate when texting classmates or sending emails. Do not be mean or write something that they are not willing to say directly face to face with that person.
5. Talk to parents, a teacher, or a police officer if they ever are troubled by anything they see or receive online or in a text.

Questions: please call or write:

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ISEARCH is a personal safety curriculum for students in grades K - 8, supported by the Police Department of River Forest and River Forest Township Youth Services