

AUSTIN ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Always Reaching Excellence

Mrs. Lois Barney
Principal

Mrs. Amanda Cavin
Assistant Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Austin Road Elementary administration and staff members will continue to be vigilant about keeping our students safe and secure. It is important for your child to be properly supervised in the mornings and afternoons. We know that many of our families are facing tough economic times. The ability to afford proper childcare has become increasingly more difficult for many. However, as state-mandated reporters, we are required to report the improper supervision of children to the Henry County Department of Family and Children's Services (DFACS).

Therefore, in an effort to prevent any circumstances from occurring that could place one of our students in harms way, we have decided to provide you with the following guidelines from the state of Georgia. The guidelines are taken directly from the Child Protective Services Social Services Manual, 2104.3.

1. **Children eight years of age or younger should NEVER be left alone.**
2. **Children between the ages of nine and twelve, based on their level of maturity, may be left alone for less than two hours. However, children between the ages of nine and twelve should never be utilized as babysitters.**
3. **Children thirteen years of age and older, based on their level of maturity, may be left alone and may perform the role of babysitter as authorized by a parent and/or caretaker for up to eight hours during the day.**

It is extremely important to remember that our elementary students range in age from five to twelve years old. Therefore, the two hour limit or less applies to their supervision needs as you ask yourself the following questions.

1. **Does the child know the emergency plan for the family?**
2. **Does the child know the parent's telephone numbers (cell, home, and work)?**
3. **Can the child demonstrate the plan and recite the numbers?**
4. **What is the availability of the parent during that time?**
5. **Are there environmental factors that further add risk to the situation?**
6. **Are there factors that reduce risk (e.g., supportive adults, available neighbors)?**

It is our desire to support you in making wise decisions regarding the safety and supervision of your children. If we can be of assistance to you in any manner, please feel free to contact us at the school at (770) 389-6556.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lois Barney
Principal