

Safe Neighborhoods

Directions Neighborhoods are safest when residents know each other and have a strong sense of community. They look out for each other. They can identify suspicious activity, and they care enough to report it. Children know neighbors who will help them. The National Sheriffs' Association has a program called Neighborhood Watch. In the program, residents work with the police to keep neighborhoods safer. Whether or not a community has this program, the same basic ideas can help every neighborhood. Read these Neighborhood Watch ideas and answer the questions. Then discuss ways that you could make your neighborhood safer.

1. Social activities for the whole block or community help neighbors know each other. *Why might neighbors knowing each other help make the neighborhood safer?*

2. Neighbors know the individual police who patrol their neighborhood. *Why might this help make the neighborhood safer?*

3. If neighbors see things being carried out of a house while the owner is away, they call the police emergency number instead of going out and stopping the burglar. *Why shouldn't they try to stop the burglar themselves?*

4. Neighbors can show pride in their community. They can work together to pick up litter and paint over graffiti. *Why might this help make the neighborhood safer?*

(Continued on next page)

Safe Neighborhoods (Continued)

Activity 73

5. Neighbors learn how to make their homes more secure and harder to break into. *Why might this make the entire neighborhood safer?*

6. Police encourage residents to report suspicious activity, even when they are not sure a problem exists. It is better to be safe than sorry. *Why might each of the following be a sign of criminal activity?*

A. Scream or shout for help: _____

B. Someone looking in windows and parked cars _____

C. Unusual noises: _____

D. Property being taken from a house when the owner or renter is away: _____

E. Abandoned cars: _____

F. Vehicles moving slowly without a destination or at night without lights: _____

G. Stranger sitting a long time in a parked car: _____

H. Stranger stopping to talk to a child: _____

7. Why should people tell a neighbor when they plan to be out of town? _____

8. Why should people *not* tell a stranger that they are going out of town? _____

Sharing Household Maintenance

Directions Develop a household maintenance plan for a busy family of four. Mom and Dad both work full-time. Ted is in high school and Nan is in middle school. Fill out the chart below with your plan. Then compare and discuss plans in class.

Tasks	How often? (daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly?)	How organized? (each do own, take turns, do together, assign one person?)	Who will do task?			
			Mom	Dad	Ted	Nan
1 Make beds						
2 Put away belongings						
3 Carry out trash						
4 Feed cat						
5 Clean up spills						
6 Hang up coats						
7 Put away shoes/boots						
8 Change bed sheets						
9 Change towels						
10 Do laundry						
11 Do minor repairs						
12 Vacuum						
13 Dust furniture						
14 Wash floors						
15 Clean bathrooms						
16 Clean out closets						
17 Wash windows						
18 Shampoo carpets						
19 Mow grass						
20 Rake leaves						
21 Shovel snow						