**Press Release Announcing New Program**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:**

**[Current Date] [Your name, phone, email]**

**[YOUR ORGANIZATION] OFFERS SAFE SITTER® COURSE FOR YOUNG TEENS**

**Program Teaches Home Alone Safety & More**

[Your organization] has become a Safe Sitter® Provider and now offers the life and safety training program for young teens, grades 6-8. More than 775,000 graduates have completed Safe Sitter® through a network of over 3000 Instructors across the United States and Canada. Graduates learn how to prevent injuries and handle emergencies when home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting.

Injuries are the leading cause of death in children up to age 5. Safe Sitter® aims to reduce the number of avoidable and unintentional deaths among children being cared for by young teen caretakers. The program follows American Heart Association standards for rescue skills and instruction in first aid techniques from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The nationally recognized program was developed by pediatrician Dr. Patricia Keener after a colleague’s toddler choked to death while in the care of an adult sitter who didn’t know what to do. Students who complete a Safe Sitter® course gain confidence and learn how, why, and where injuries can happen so they can be prevented. They are taught infant and child choking rescue ***[and CPR. Insert if teaching Safe Sitter® Essentials with CPR or Safe Sitter® Expanded]****.* They also learn how a child’s age affects the care they receive, how to prevent problem behavior, how to run their own babysitting business, and issues in online and personal safety.

Students who graduate from a Safe Sitter® course receive a completion card that demonstrates they know how to use their skills in situations they encounter.

For more information about **[your organization]**, contact **[your name]** at **[your phone number]** or visit **[website URL]**.

For more information about the Safe Sitter® organization, contact National Headquarters at 317.596.5001 or visit safesitter.org.

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