

Home Assessment Checklist

Getting your home ready for fostering or adoption is an exciting step, and safety is a top priority! As part of the application process, a social worker will come to your home to check if it's a safe and welcoming place for children and youth.

Below is a list of the types of things the social worker will be considering when they visit your home. If you want, you can get a head start by reviewing the list before your scheduled visit.

Home maintenance

- ☐ Home is in good condition inside and outside.
- ☐ Play equipment is safe, age-appropriate, and works well.

Bedroom and living space

- ☐ Home has specific rooms for living, eating, cooking, sleeping, and bathing.
- ☐ Bedroom is an appropriate space for a child/youth (ex: one person per bed, not shared with adult, space to play, floor to ceiling walls, door, privacy curtains/blinds, fire safe windows, etc.)

Home safety and emergency preparedness

- ☐ The home has a CSA Group certified Type 2 basic small first aid kit
- ☐ Emergency phone numbers are easy to find.
- ☐ There's a working phone that can be reached 24/7.
- ☐ Home complies with fire code/safety regulations (ex: fire extinguisher in or near the kitchen, adequate emergency plan and exits (2 or more), smoke detectors on every level, carbon monoxide detector, etc.)
- ☐ Woodstoves or alternate heating sources are inspected by the fire department.
- ☐ There are no open wires or uncovered outlets.

Household hazard(s)

- ☐ Medications are properly labeled and stored safely.
- ☐ Dangerous things are stored safely (poisonous/hazardous materials, equipment, etc.).
- ☐ No one smokes or vapes inside of the home.
- ☐ Guns, weapons, and bullets are locked away safely.
- ☐ If there is a swimming pool, it's fenced.

Pet(s)

- ☐ Family pets are well taken care of and clean.

Vehicle(s)

- ☐ Family has at least \$1,000,000 in liability insurance for their vehicle(s).
- ☐ Family vehicle(s) have up-to-date safety inspections.
- ☐ Children/youth have the right safety seats in the car, that are installed correctly.