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 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.