

CERTIFIED FAMILY HOME INSPECTION

(a self-check list for foster parents)

IN AND AROUND THE FOSTER HOME

- 1. Walls and ceilings are clean and in good repair.
- 2. Paint and wallpaper is in good condition.
- 3. Windows, screens, curtains, and blinds are in good condition and operate properly.
- 4. Floors and floor coverings are clean and in good repair.
- 5. Doors are in good condition and operate properly.
- 6. Equipment and supplies are not stored in the yard or areas used by children.
- 7. Smoke detectors operate properly.
- 8. Fire extinguishers are properly charged.
- 9. Furniture and fixtures are in good repair.
- 10. Weapons and ammunition are locked separately.
- 11. Handrails and deck rails are securely fastened.
- 12. Items dangerous to children (disinfectants, cleaning solutions, etc.), are inaccessible.
- 13. Passageways, stairways and doors are not blocked or obstructed.
- 14. Rooms are free of odors.
- 15. Room temperature is a minimum of 68 degrees and a maximum of 85 degrees.
(In extreme heat, maximum temperature is 30 degrees less than outside.)
- 16. Pools, pools, spas, and other bodies of water are made inaccessible through one of the following:
 - 5' high fencing with self-closing and self-latching gate
 - A cover that is capable of supporting the weight of an adult
 - Ladder is removed from side of pool when not being used (above ground pools only)
- 17. Fireplaces, open faced heaters, and wood burning stoves are inaccessible to children.
- 18. There is a working telephone in the foster home.
- 19. Buildings and grounds are free from hazards (e.g. broken glass, exposed electrical wiring, protruding nails, etc.)
- 20. Home is free of flies and other insects.

CHILDREN'S BEDROOMS

- 1. Sheets, pillow cases, mattress pads, blankets and bedspreads are clean and in good condition.
- 2. Mattresses, box springs and pillows are in good repair.
- 3. There is adequate dresser and closet space for children's clothing and belongings.
- 4. Clothes in dressers and closets are clean.
- 5. There are no more than 2 children to a bedroom.
- 6. Children of the opposite sex do not share a bedroom unless under the age of 5 years old.
- 7. Children's rooms are not used for other purposes (e.g. storage of foster parents' items, laundry rooms, passageways to other common areas/rooms, etc.)
- 8. Children do not share a room with an adult unless the child is under the age of 2 years old.
- 9. Linen is changed at least once a week and more often if necessary.
- 10. Bunk beds have rails on the upper tier, have no more than 2 tiers and are not used by children who are unable to climb into them unassisted and are not under the age of 5 years.

BATHROOMS

- 1. Hot water temperature is 105 - 120 degrees F.
- 2. Sinks, tubs, toilets, and showers are clean and operable.
- 3. Common towels and washcloths are NOT used.
- 4. Equipment and supplies for personal hygiene are available for children in sufficient amounts.

FOOD AND MEALS

- 1. Food storage and preparation areas (pantries, cupboards, freezers, stoves, microwaves, refrigerators, counters, etc.) are clean.
- 2. There are no pesticides or toxic chemicals (ant spray, rodent poison, etc.) stored in any food storage or preparation room or with utensils.
- 3. Cleaning supplies are kept in areas separate from food supplies.
- 4. Contaminated or spoiled food is discarded.
- 5. Food supplies are kept covered and inaccessible to pests.
- 6. Frozen foods are properly stored.
- 7. Food supplies are dated and rotated to use older items first.
- 8. Trash can has a tight fitting cover.
- 9. Refrigerator is set at 45 degrees F.
- 10. Snacks and beverages are available in the home.
- 11. Dishes, glasses, and utensils are clean and in good condition.
- 12. Modified diets are provided as needed.
- 13. Powdered milk is not used as a beverage.
- 14. There is an adequate supply of fresh, perishable and non-perishable food in the home to prepare the next three meals and snacks.
- 15. Infants younger than 7 months of age are held during bottle feeding.
- 16. Foster children have their meals with family members and are served food of the same quality as that served to all family members.

HANDLING MEDICATION

- 1. All medication (including over-the-counter, inhalers, and vitamins) are stored in a locked box.
- 2. Refrigerated medication is stored in a locked box.
- 3. Medication is stored in compliance with the instructions printed on the label.
- 4. There are no expired medications.
- 5. Each prescription bottle is logged on the Centrally Stored Medication and Destruction Record.
- 6. Destroyed medication is logged on the Centrally Stored Medication and Destruction Record.
- 7. There is enough medication in each bottle to order a refill before the current supply runs out.
- 8. Medication is given according to the label or physician's instructions.
- 9. Medication labels are not altered.
- 10. Medication is not transferred from the original bottle to other containers.
- 11. Sample medication meets all requirements (except prescription number and pharmacy name).
- 12. Permanently discontinued medication or medication for former residents of the home is destroyed or removed from the home.
- 13. There is documentation of contacting the doctor or social worker when a child refuses to take medication.