



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Children and Young People's Social Care

FOSTERING SERVICE

Home Safety Foster Care Checklist

This form should be completed by the applicant/carer as part of their assessment or review, and discussed with the assessing/supervising fostering officer, who should complete the end column. The form should then be reconsidered and updated if necessary at each subsequent Foster Carer Review.

Fostering officers should satisfy themselves that relevant issues have been fully addressed, and should for example witness a test of fitted smoke alarms, before initialling the date that this was done in the end column. They should see relevant documentation such as driving licence and car MOT and insurance certificates, and record in the end column when these were seen.

The fire service undertake fire safety checks free of charge and these are compulsory for all foster carers. The number to ring to arrange this is 0800 587 4536. Carers should request that a copy of the Fire Service Risk assessment is left with them for discussion during the assessment/review.

Please confirm date of fire safety check/risk assessment

Fostering officers will need to be mindful of the ages and likely abilities of children to be placed and view any potential hazards with these considerations in mind.

When completed, the form must be signed and dated by the applicant/carer and the assessing/supervising fostering officer.

1. PORCH/HALL/STAIRS/LANDING	Carer's check/comments	Fostering Officer's check/comments
Do outside doors lock properly?		
Front door/glazed areas - is safety glass used?		
Is the entrance area/hallway free of trip hazards, including trailing flexes, prams and bikes?		
Is the staircase/landing free from obstructions?		

Are stair gates in use and safely and securely fitted?		
PORCH/HALL/STAIRS/LANDING cont.....	Carer's check/comments	Fostering Officer's check/comments
Hall and stairs – are they well lit? If a child rises during the night, is a light left on so that they are able to see where they are going?		
Are hand rail(s)/banisters fitted and secure? Are balustrades safe and secure with no wide gaps?		
Are carpets non-slip/trip, securely fitted and free from wear?		
Are smoke detectors fitted, working, and checked regularly? Give test date.		
Any other concerns?		
2. LIVING/DINING AREAS		
Is furniture positioned to allow easy and safe access around the room, with sharp edges cushioned, and heavy items securely fixed?		
Are flexes trailing?		
Is floor covering safe and secure?		
Internal/external glass - is safety glass used? Check doors, windows and furniture		
Are all fires/heaters securely fixed and regularly maintained and serviced?		
Are fires/heaters fitted with a fixed fire/spark guard?		
Are windows safe and restrictor bars in use if required?		
Is alcohol stored safely out of reach?		
Is a Carbon Monoxide detector fitted and working?		
Any other concerns?		
3. KITCHEN		
Internal/external glass - is safety glass used?		
Is floor covering safe and secure?		
Are flexes out of reach and towards the back of surfaces with none trailing?		
Are loose furnishings (Bins/storage racks etc)		

positioned safely?		
Are dangerous items – toxic chemicals, knives, medicines, matches etc stored securely, out of sight and out of reach?		
KITCHEN cont.....	Carer's check/comments	Fostering Officer's check/comments
Are hot drinks/kettles kept well away from children?		
Is there any fire fighting equipment/fire blanket?		
Any other concerns?		
4. BEDROOMS		
Are blind/curtain cords safe (cut or out of reach)?		
Do windows open for escape?		
Do windows have safety locks?		
Is floor covering safe and secure?		
Are beds adequate and age appropriate?		
Are sockets visually safe with socket covers fitted?		
Is furniture Positioned safely with clear access around the room?		
Are flexes positioned safely to avoid a trip/pull hazard?		
Any other concerns?		
5. BATHROOM/TOILET		
Is water temperature controlled by a thermostat?		
Is floor covering safe and secure?		
Are medicines/toiletries and cleaning materials stored safely out of reach?		
Are razors/scissors kept out of reach and sight ?		
Any other concerns?		
6. GARDEN/OUTDOORS		
Are paths/driveways clear of obstructions and not a slip/trip/fall hazard?		

Do outside steps have a handrail?		
GARDEN/OUTDOORS cont.....	Carer's check/comments	Fostering Officer's check/comments
Is access to the house well lit?		
Are garden tools and chemicals stored in a locked shed or garage?		
Are fences safe and secure with no footholds?		
Are ponds or water barrels safely covered over, fenced off, or filled in?		
Is play equipment in good repair, with no sharp edges, and in a safe area?		
Is there any rubbish or dog dirt around?		
Are there any poisonous plants/nettles/berries?		
Is there a greenhouse and does it have safety glass fitted in the lower panes?		
Any other concerns?		
7. PETS		
Are there any pets? If yes please list		
Where do the pets sleep?		
Where do the pets eat? Is food left out and does this present any risk to a child?		
Where are pets toileted? How are any risks this presents minimised?		
Are reptile/fish tanks secure and covered?		
Any concerns about a pets temperament or behaviour?		
Any other concerns?		

8. VEHICLES (used to transport chil/ren)		Carer's check/comments	Fostering Officer's check/comments
How many people is your vehicle legally allowed to carry?			
Is it fitted with age appropriate car safety equipment? <i>See guidance</i>			
Is it well maintained and adequately insured? <i>Please have servicing and MOT documents available</i>			
Who is legally allowed to drive the vehicle? <i>Please have insurance documents and driving licence/s available</i>			
Have any drivers had convictions for driving offences? <i>Please give details</i>			
9. OTHER ACCOMMODATION			
Do you have a caravan or other accommodation where you might take a child? <i>If yes please give details</i>			
Have you discussed this with your fostering officer and has a Health & Safety risk assessment been undertaken? <i>Give date</i>			
The foster home must be well maintained and adequately insured. Carers should have household insurance documents available. Fostering Officers please confirm the date seen and the date of issue		Date Domestic/Household Insurance seen	Date Domestic/Household Insurance issued
Areas of Concern	Action to be taken	By who/timescale	

--	--	--

Continue overleaf if required

Signed.....Carer/s

Date.....

Signed.....Fostering Officer

Date.....