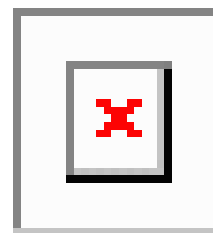


# Adopters Home Safety Checklist



## Carer and Property Details and Checklist Guidance

**Carers Name**

**Carers Address:**

**Property owned by:**

Approved adopters homes need to be safe for children and young people to live in. It is the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council to ensure, as far as possible, that the foster home fulfils safety standards. The Health and safety checklist below contains all of the checks that are needed. The first part of the form relates to the general living conditions in the home. The second part of the form relates specifically to home safety.

The allocated assessing worker should complete the entire form during the assessment process. Adopters can also be asked to complete the form as a way of gathering evidence in meeting competency 2.1 (an ability to ensure that children are cared for in a home where they are safe from harm or abuse). The worker and Adopters can then look at the form together and identify any areas which need to be improved or changed before the home can be approved as safe.

This form needs to be updated annually as part of the reviewing process (see back page) and following any significant changes.

## General Household Conditions

**Is there sufficient space for children to pursue their homework, to engage in quiet activities on their own as well as play boisterously**

**Will the child/young person have their own bedroom or if shared, (with the same sex sibling) is the room large enough**

Is there any extension or loft conversion) Does this conform to building regulations? is there a Safety Certificate?

Date Seen:

Are there any obvious outside hazards? Eg balconies, steps, glass , building sites, canals, wells, farms, busy road

Fire Safety

Smoke Alarms (BS EN 14604: 2005) are fitted and working on every level of the house

Date Tested:

Smoke Alarm Batteries have been replaced within the last year

Date Replaced:

Chimney Flues have been inspected and swept within the last year (smokeless fuel) or six months (wood/coal)

Date:

Matches and Lighters are safely stored (locked away or at or above adult eye height)

**Escape routes are planned, appropriate and understood by household members (household fire plan)**

**Keys to window locks are accessible to adults and responsible children and young people but not other children**

**A Fireguard (BS 8423: 2010) and/or spark guard is used as appropriate on open fires and solid fuel burners**

**Electricity sockets are not overloaded (should not exceed 13 amps)**

**There is no evidence of scorched sockets, frayed wires or anything to suggest an electrical check is needed**

**Any electrical work has been completed by a qualified and registered electrician**

**Do the adopters know the advice 'Get Out and Stay Out' from the Fire Brigade**

**Are all window and door keys easily available in the event of fire?**

## Falls

Floors, stairs and outside spaces are well-maintained and free of obstacles and trip hazards

Lighting is appropriate throughout the home

Safety gates (BS EN 1930: 2011) are competently and securely fitted at the bottom of stairs

Consideration has been given to the use of competently and securely fitted safety gates (BS EN 1930: 2011) upstairs/elsewhere

Bannisters are strong with suitable gaps, not exceeding 6.5cm (ages 0-2) or 10cm with no horizontal rails or footholds for climbing (age 2-5)

Child resistant window restrictors are fitted, with the gap not exceeding 10cm (ages 0-5) and taking into account fire escape routes

Upper bunk beds have secure safety rails and ladders and are not being used for children under the age of 6

**Pushchairs, buggies and high chairs are in good condition with straps and harnesses**

**Outdoor play space is kept clear, equipment is safe and securely attached and mounted over a suitable surface**

**Trampolines are fitted with a safety net enclosure**

**Are there rules about wearing helmets when riding bikes/motor-bikes/scooters and has consideration been given to cycle maintenance and safe cycling**

## **Burns and Scalds**

**Carers understand the need to run cold water before the hot water into baths, or thermostatic mixing valves have been fitted (aged 0-5)**

**Kettle cords are safely out of reach**

**Consideration has been given to keeping children out of the kitchen when cooking**

**A fireguard (BS 8423: 2010) is used on all types of fire to prevent young children being burned (ages 0-5)**

**Consideration has been given to the dangers linked to hot drinks**

**Consideration has been given to the dangers linked to hair straighteners and irons**

**Consideration has been given to the dangers linked to sunburn**

## **Strangulation and Suffocation**

**There are no blinds or curtains with cords that constitute a hazard**

**There are no hanging toys or draw-string bags that constitute a hazard**

**Plastic bags and nappy sacks are stored safely**

**Children are prevented from playing with rotary washing lines, ropes or cords**

**Cots are free from pillows, duvets, large toys and cot bumpers**

**Has consideration been given to current advice on safe sleeping**

**Toys and other items with small parts are stored safely away from young children**

## Poisoning

Carbon monoxide alarms are fitted and working in rooms with a fuel-burning appliance

Date Tested:

Fuel-burning appliances have been serviced within the last year by a registered engineer

Medicines are safely stored

Shampoos and cosmetics are safely stored

Household chemicals such as cleaning materials, weed killer, anti-freeze, DIY materials and button batteries are safely stored

Alcohol and liquid nicotine (found in e-cigarettes) are safely stored

There are no known plants with poisonous leaves or berries

## Drowning

Ponds, swimming pools and other standing water are safely covered or securely fenced

Babies and young children are always supervised in the bath

Cutting and Crush Injuries

Low glass is either safety glass (BS 6206) , covered with safety film or boarded up

Greenhouses are made of safety glass or safely fenced

Kitchen knives and razor blades are safely stored

Equipment, tools and sharp items used for work, DIY or hobbies are safely stored

Ceremonial swords are safely stored

Tall furniture and appliances are safe and secure and fixed to the wall where necessary

Consideration has been given to fitting anti-finger trapping devices to prevent a toddler's fingers being trapped in doors (age 0-5)



## Other

The home is warm, in good decorative order and furniture is sufficient, suitable and in good repair

The home and particularly the kitchen and bathroom are kept clean and hygienic

The home is secured from inside to prevent toddlers and small children leaving unnoticed

Locks on bathroom doors are suitable and allow access in an emergency

Garden gates and fencing are secure to prevent toddlers and small children leaving while unattended

Garages and Sheds are locked

DVDs and video games are stored so that children cannot access inappropriate material

## Vehicle Safety

The following table is used to collate information about drivers and vehicles within the household, this includes:

- Which household members drive
- If anyone has endorsements on their licence
- Whether the household member owns a vehicle
- If the vehicle is intended for transporting fostered or adoptive children
- How many passengers and how many seat belts are in place

### Household Driver and Vehicle Details

Driver Name	Licence Endorsements	Owner of Vehicle	Transportation of Children in Placement	Number of Passengers and Seat Belts

All vehicles have  
up to date MOT  
Certificates and  
Road Tax

Expiry Date MOT: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date Road Tax: \_\_\_\_\_

All vehicles have  
up to date insur-  
ance and insurers  
are notified of fos-  
tering/adoption  
status

Expiry Date:

Driving licences  
have been seen for  
all those involved  
in transporting  
children

Appropriate car  
seats are correctly  
fitted and used

### Specific Circumstances

If applicants have  
holiday accommo-  
dation i.e. caravan,  
apartment, boat  
etc, these meet the  
above standards

Is there any equipment in the household or grounds used for activities which could be considered to be hazardous e.g. firearms, knives, fishing equipment, sewing machines, power tools, lawn mowers, farm machinery

Firearms are stored on the property

If guns are kept has a current certificate been seen?

The home is also a working farm

Hazardous work equipment/materials are stored on the property

Is equipment kept securely (guns in locked cupboard, keys to farm machines kept securely)

Are equipment and the storage arrangements inspected by an external body? E.g. Police

If the answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, please see the accompanying notes and provide additional information below:

## Additional Information and Outstanding Actions

### Additional Information

### Outstanding Actions

### Checklist Completion and Manager Confirmation

Checklist Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I have seen the attached checklist.

This form has been completed by Social Workers as part of their duties as prescribed by Derbyshire County Council. Neither they nor I have any qualifications in risk assessment nor health and safety matters. The information is recorded in good faith to promote the safe caring of Children and Young People

### Team Manager Verification:

### Post Approval

The allocated Adoption Worker should follow-up all identified issues in relation to the Health and Safety checklist completed by the assessing Social Worker. On completion of this, the form below should be verified by themselves and their manager.

### Review of Health and Safety Checklist

This needs to take place if there are significant changes in the house, or the carers move to a new property or at a minimum on an annual basis as part of the reviewing process. If there are significant changes, a new Health and Safety checklist needs to be completed. If no major changes, the form below needs to be completed and submitted as part of the reviewing process.

#### Carers Name

#### Carers Address:

Date of Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Fostering Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificates/ Documents Seen: (including driving licence, car insurance, MOT, Tax, gun licence etc.)

#### Date driving licence seen:

#### Date current MOT and vehicle insurance seen:

#### House and Buildings Insurance:

**Gas/ Electrical Appliances:**

**Have any health issues been flagged up by the most recent medical questionnaire?**

**Worker Verification:**