

# Home Safety Checklist

## Family Based Care

<b>Name of carer(s):</b>	
<b>Address of property:</b>	
<b>Name of agency:</b>	
<b>Name of agency worker(s):</b>	
<b>Date of completion:</b>	

The safety of children in care is paramount, and it is important to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to reduce the risk of injury, and make carers' homes a safer place for children. The following Home Safety Checklist has been developed as a tool for foster care support agencies and family based carers to use as a guide when conducting assessments, to assess and resolve home safety issues.

Questions 1 – 42 must be completed with all family based carers. Subsequent questions, related to infant/young child, vehicle, pet, pool/spa, and farm/rural safety, are to be completed if applicable to the family based carers' property and/or approval conditions.

PLEASE NOTE: For any questions marked with a 'NO' response, a comment outlining a description of the safety issue must be included, and a corresponding action/risk management plan reflected in the 'Summary of identified safety issues and actions to be completed' section below.

<b>GENERAL SAFETY (<i>applicable to all carers</i>)</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	Is the home a clean and hygienic environment, and in a good state of repair?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Is there a working electrical safety switch installed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Are there working smoke alarms installed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Is there a fire blanket or fire extinguisher within the home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Are heaters, open fires and candles screened with a secured guard or inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>GENERAL SAFETY (<i>applicable to all carers</i>)</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
6	Are cigarettes, ashtrays, matches, and lighters out of reach?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Are all household members aware that smoking must occur outside of the home and car/s, and not in the presence of children or young people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	If the home is located outside of a bushfire safer place, is there a Bushfire Survival Plan in place?  Please note: Refer to the CFS website to determine bushfire risk status. A copy of the Bushfire Survival Plan must be provided to the Carer Approval and Review Unit(CARU).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Are emergency contact details displayed? <i>i.e. 000, crisis care, poisons information.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	Are there basic first aid supplies within the home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	Are glass doors protected by safety film, colourful stickers, or made of safety glass?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12	Are appliances and plugs in good condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	Are all mouse and rat traps/baits inaccessible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	Are all poisons, cleaning products and hazardous substances inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	Are all medications inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16	Is alcohol inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17	Are batteries (particularly lithium button batteries) stored out of reach and disposed of safely?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>GENERAL SAFETY (<i>applicable to all carers</i>)</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
18	Are knives, scissors, razors, and other dangerous items inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19	Are firearms and weapons registered and stored in accordance with state legislation (in a locked safe; ammunition stored separately)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20	Are hair dryers, straighteners/curlers and electric razors unplugged when not in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21	Does the bath and bathroom floor have a non-slip surface or non-slip mats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22	Is the delivery temperature of hot water in the bathroom regulated to a maximum of 50°C?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23	Are all buckets, sinks, baths, and washing machines kept empty when not in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24	Are televisions, bookcases, entertainment units, and other top-heavy furniture secured to prevent toppling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>BEDROOM SAFETY (<i>applicable to all carers</i>)</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
25	Are beds appropriate to the children's age and development?  <i>Please note: children under 9 years should not sleep in bunk beds.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
26	Is there space for children to store their personal belongings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
27	Do sleeping arrangements comply with the Standards of Alternative Care?  <i>i.e. all children sharing a bedroom are of a similar age and developmental stage, are of the same gender or are siblings; sleeping arrangements are not improvised.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
28	How many beds are available for foster children?	Number:			

<b>OUTDOOR SAFETY (<i>applicable to all carers</i>)</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
29	Are children supervised when outside (appropriate to children's age, needs, and behaviours)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
30	Is the children's play area separate from the driveway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
31	Is access to the street/road restricted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
32	Is the outdoor play area clear of hazards and well maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
33	Is play equipment safe and in good repair?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
34	Do all children wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter, or when using inline skates, skateboards or rollerblades (in accordance with legislation and Safety Standards)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
35	Is the trampoline in compliance with Safety Standards, in good repair and positioned safely?  <i>i.e. positioned over lawn or a soft area.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
36	Are all garages/garden sheds inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
37	Are all garden tools, mowers, chainsaws, pesticides, paints, chemicals, poisons, fuels and other dangerous items inaccessible to children?  <i>Please note: chemicals and other poisons should be stored in their original, labelled containers.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
38	Do all caregivers ensure that children are kept at a safe distance when lawnmowers are in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
39	Is the backyard free of drowning hazards (e.g. uncovered ponds, clam shell pools, pet's water containers, buckets, tanks)?  <i>Please note: a child can drown in as little as 5 cm of water.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>OUTDOOR SAFETY (applicable to all carers)</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
40	Are rainwater tanks sealed securely, with entry inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
41	Are all garden statues and bird baths secured appropriately?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
42	Is the outside environment appropriately maintained to reduce risk in the event of a fire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**INFANT/YOUNG CHILD SAFETY (applicable to all carers approved to care for children aged 0 – 4 years)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Comment:
-------------------------------------	---	----------

<b>INFANT/YOUNG CHILD SAFETY</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
43	Do all cots (including portable cots) comply with Safety Standards (rails must be between 50mm and 95mm apart)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
44	Is the cot mattress firm, flat and snug fitting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
45	Is the cot free from any soft items (eg toys, bumpers and pillows)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
46	Is the cot positioned safely away from potential hazards (eg windows, curtain cords, and powerpoints)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
47	How many cots are available for foster children?	Number:			
48	Does all other infant care equipment (high chairs and strollers/prams) comply with Safety Standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
49	Do all caregivers ensure children are not left unattended on change tables?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
50	Do all caregivers ensure children are not left unattended in the bathroom?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

51	Is the water temperature of the bath and shower tested before use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
52	Are shampoos, soaps, and cosmetics inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
53	Are there barrier gates on steps, stairs, and changes in floor levels to prevent falls, and are barriers/railings free of foot holds to prevent children from climbing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
54	Is access to the kitchen restricted by using a safety barrier?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
55	Are all small appliances, including cords, inaccessible to children (e.g. kettle, microwave, and toaster)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
56	Are plastic bags tied in the middle and inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
57	Are sharp edges on tables and furniture covered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>INFANT/YOUNG CHILD SAFETY</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
58	Are safety covers fitted in unused power points?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
59	Are blind and curtain cords secured and inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
60	Are all accessible items and toys age-appropriate (eg free of choking hazards, not breakable)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>PET SAFETY (<i>applicable to all carers with pets</i>)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Comment:

<b>PET SAFETY</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
61	Are children always supervised around animals and separated when unsupervised?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
62	Are all animals non-aggressive?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
63	Are all animals able to be separated from children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
64	Are all animals' water and feeding bowls inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
65	Are reptiles inaccessible to children (ie locked tank) and are appropriate feeding practices followed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
66	Are fish tanks securely placed and covered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
67	Are infant sleep spaces inaccessible to cats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
68	Is animal excrement safely and hygienically managed?  i.e. litter trays inaccessible to children, dog faeces regularly removed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**VEHICLE SAFETY (*applicable to all carers who own vehicles*)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Comment:
-------------------------------------	---	----------

<b>VEHICLE SAFETY</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
69	Does any caregiver, who provides transport to children, have a current driver's licence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
70	Are all vehicles in use registered and in roadworthy condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

VEHICLE SAFETY		Yes	No	N/A	Comment
71	Do all vehicles have car seats and restraints appropriate to children's age and size (in accordance with Safety Standards)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
72	Are all vehicles locked and the keys inaccessible to children when not in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
73	Are child-proof locks used in all vehicles (appropriate to children's needs and behaviours)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
74	Are all caregivers aware that transportation of children in care on motorbikes is not permitted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**POOL/SPA SAFETY** (*applicable to all carers with in-ground pools, above ground pools, or spas*)

<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Comment:
-------------------------------------	---	----------

POOL/SPA SAFETY		Yes	No	N/A	Comment
75	Is the pool and/or spa fully enclosed by a safety fence with a functioning self-closing and self-latching gate that opens outwards, away from the pool (in accordance with Legislation)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
76	Is the area surrounding the pool and/or spa free of climbable objects (eg BBQs, tables, chairs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
77	Is the pool and/or spa maintained in a hygienic condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**FARM/RURAL SAFETY** (*applicable to all carers residing in rural areas or on large properties*)

<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Comment:
-------------------------------------	---	----------



<b>FARM/RURAL SAFETY</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
78	Is there a safe, fenced play space outside?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
79	Is there a fence around the house, with appropriate gates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
80	Do all caregivers check outside for snakes before letting children into the yard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
81	Are all animal pens and stockyards inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
82	Are children always supervised around farm animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
83	Do all caregivers ensure that children are at a safe distance before starting, and while using, any farm machinery or equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
84	Are dams and bodies of water inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
85	Do all caregivers keep young children away from, and supervise older children when around, quad and farm bikes?  Refer to <a href="http://www.kidsafesa.com.au/home-safety/quad-bike-safety">http://www.kidsafesa.com.au/home-safety/quad-bike-safety</a> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
86	Is entry to silos inaccessible to children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
87	Are workers made aware of children's presence on the farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>OTHER SAFETY CHECKS (in line with agency specific requirements)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<i>Note: If applicable, please list below.</i>

<b>OTHER SAFETY CHECKS (eg home and contents insurance)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment</b>
88	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
89	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
90	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
91	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
92	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
93	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
94	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
95	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
96	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
97	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
98	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
99	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
100	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

No.	Description of Safety Issue	Description of action to be completed and/or risk management plan	Person responsible	Date action to be completed by
				____/____/____
				____/____/____
				____/____/____
				____/____/____
				____/____/____
				____/____/____
				____/____/____
				____/____/____

<b>SIGNATURES OF CARER/S AND AUTHORIZED AGENCY PERSONNEL</b>	
<b>CARER(S):</b>	
<b>AGENCY WORKER(S):</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	

\*Adapted from <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/documents/service-providers/home-safety-checklist.pdf>