



How to prepare for your House Assessment



Safety Items:

- Cover electrical outlets
- Install a baby gate if you have stairs
- Store all medicines up high or locked away
- Store all cleaning supplies up high or locked away (toddler cabinet locks are fine)
- Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm outside of bedroom areas
- Check smoke alarm batteries—batteries should be replaced at least once a year
- If you have a fireplace, wood burning stove, or floor furnace, you will need a screen that blocks access
- Space heaters need to have an auto shut off safety feature in case of over-heating or being knocked over
- Clear glass doors need to be marked so a child will not run into it (stickers or a blind/curtain)
- You will need a fire extinguisher accessible to the kitchen
- There cannot be any smoking in the house or car when foster children are present. Smokers (including visitors) need to smoke outside and 25 feet away from the door or play area
- Emergency numbers need to be posted somewhere by the phone or in the kitchen
- Guns need to be stored in a gun safe or lock box with a trigger lock. (2 barriers between a child and a gun) Ammo needs to be stored separately.
 - Please refer to the “Weapons Safety Agreement” for further information regarding safety and conceal/carry

Water Safety:

- There needs to be 2 barriers between the play space and the pool/pond. The first barrier can be an extra lock on the back door that is high enough that a child cannot reach it. We prefer the second barrier to be a gate across the back patio or a fence around the play area OR pool. Other safety barriers could be: a sensor alarm that goes off if there is movement in the pool or a cover that can be walked on and locked.

For the child’s room:

- Crib/bed—we recommend the convertible cribs that can be transformed into a toddler bed. Walmart and Target are great places to look for these.
- Space to store clothing and belongings (a dresser, chest of drawers, or closet space)
- Adequate ventilation/windows.
- Convertible car seat (These can be fit to children ages newborn to toddler. They can be rear facing and forward facing, and can be gender neutral. Again, check Walmart and Target.

****Don’t forget to check garage sales, family and friends, and consignment shops!****