

Home Visit Checklist

This checklist is designed to help you prepare for the home visit. Your home study provider will conduct an in-person walking tour of the interior/exterior of your home. They will evaluate your home environment based on the following items.

The exterior of the Home	
	The exterior of your home must be in good condition and free from hazards.
	Hazardous or poisonous materials (sharp tools, chlorine tablets, pest control sprays, etc.) must be stored away and locked up (if on eye level with the child). If possible, these materials are preferred to be stored up high in an area the child cannot reach.
	In many states, drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children under five. If there is water on your property (pool below ground or below, hot tub, creek, etc.), safety measures must be in place to prevent accidental drowning. A hot tub must have a latched cover. If your backyard backs to an open water source such as a creek or lake or you must have a barrier such as a wall or a fence around your backyard. If you have a swimming pool, it must meet the minimum safety guidelines: 1- At a minimum, a four-foot wall, fence, or barrier between the swimming pool and the house; OR the pool must be protected by a motorized safety pool cover which requires the operation of a key switch; 2- All ground-level doors with direct access to the pool must be equipped with self-latching devices, and windows must be equipped with latching devices, screwed-in-place wire mesh screens, or keyed locks, depending on their purpose and location; 3- If the pool is above ground, it must have non-climbable exterior sides, at least four feet high. Any access ladder or steps must be removed and safely secured when not in use.
	If you are in the process of installing safety measures, the work must be completed before the approval of your home study. Although, during your home study visit, please vocalize all safety measures you are yet to complete, and your plan as to how/when it will be completed.
	If you are currently renovating your home and the project is not specific to child safety, the home study may be completed before the completion of the project.

Interior of the Home	
	The interior of your home must be clean, in good repair, and free from clutter and hazards.
	All cleaning supplies and medications must be stored up high out of a child's reach.
	All firearms must be stored in a locked location: Safe, locking cabinet, etc. The firearm's ammunition must be stored in a separate location away from the firearms.
	First Aid Kit.
	Functioning smoke alarms. At a minimum, outside of each sleeping area and on every level of the home including the basement.
	Fire extinguisher on each floor.
	Carbon monoxide detectors installed on each floor that have a gas or fuel-burning appliance.
	Your plan for childproofing your home depends on the age of the child you plan to adopt.
	Location of the bedroom where the child will reside.

If you have questions about whether your home will qualify, please contact your home study provider.