

## **First Home Visit Checklist for Prospective Foster Parents**

*This list is not all encompassing; it is a general guide to help get you started*

### **Overall Maintenance**

- Entire home is clean, safe, in good repair

### **Heat, Light & Ventilation**

- Heat & lights are working
- Screens on all doors & windows if used for ventilation
- Furnace & water heater are working and regularly maintained/inspected
- Fireplace has safety screen
- Bedrooms can NOT have portable heating equipment

### **Detectors**

- At least 1 smoke detector located on each floor, including basement, and between sleeping areas & the rest of home
- Carbon monoxide detector installed as per manufacturer's recommendation
- All detectors are installed properly & in working order

### **Water Supply**

- Water comes from approved source
- Toilets: at least one in working order
- Washbasin/sink: at least one in working order
- Water temperature does not exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit
- Sewage disposal is through public system or approved manner

### **Bedrooms**

- Allow for both rest & privacy
- 40 square feet of floor space per person
- Contain space for storage of clothing and personal belongings (closet, dresser, etc.)
- Finished ceiling, permanently affixed walls, & finished flooring
- Contain at least 1 window that is accessible, readily opened from inside the room, and can be used as an exit by all children & caregivers

### **Bedrooms cont.**

- Have a latch-able door that leads directly to means of egress
- Children over 3 years old cannot routinely sleep in a parent's bedroom
  
- Children over 5 years old cannot share a room with the opposite sex
- Each child must sleep alone in a bed sufficient to meet their needs
- No inflatable mattresses
- Mattresses must be on a bedframe unless individual requested otherwise

### **Hazardous Materials**

- Guns: unloaded and properly stored in locked metal or solid wood gun safe, OR trigger locked and stored in locked area. Ammunition must always be stored in a separate locked location.
- All cleaning supplies, tools, and other dangerous items are stored securely and inaccessible to children
- Medications, including over the counter nonprescription drugs, must be kept in a locked location.

### **Pets**

- All animals must be safe to be around children
- Must be vaccinated and licensed in accordance with the laws of the city

### **Other**

- Exits: each floor has 2 exits (includes basement if used as living space)
- Telephone: operating telephone is available in the home at all times
- Emergency numbers are within sight of the home phone
- Child safe covers on outlets, child gates, and child-proof locks on cabinets based on age of children
- Car seats as appropriate for age of children
- All cribs must have fixed sides
- Rescue equipment must be placed near pools & other bodies of water
- Exterior doors leading to pools & other bodies of water must have an alarm