



Government standards are set in place to ensure a safe living environment for a child in foster care. The following is a detailed list of many things that will be looked at during the assessment of a treatment foster home.

Indoors:

- The home is fire safe, with electric cords in good condition; safe wiring, basement and attic free from oily rags and accumulated papers.
- If foster children sleep in the basement, windows are of a sufficient size to allow escape in the event of a fire.
- The home is equipped with working smoke detectors, fire extinguisher, carbon monoxide detector, a first aid kit and manual.
- Radiators, hot water pipes and fireplaces are covered so that children will not get burned.
- The thermostat on the hot water tank is set so that water coming from faucets will not burn the skin.
- All exits are free of any obstacles or clutter.
- The stairs are built securely and protected by guards or railings, free of objects and well lighted.
- Matches are stored in a place inaccessible to children.
- All medications are clearly labeled, stored in original containers and locked.
- Knives, scissors and other sharp objects are kept out of easy reach of children.
- Electric tools are kept in a safe place.
- All weapons, including firearms, BB guns, pellet guns, sport and hunting knives, cross bows, bows and arrows are kept in a locked facility, separate from any ammunition. All firearms are trigger-locked.
- Cleaning agents are stored in original containers and kept out of reach of children.
- Family pets are not a threat to children and have been vaccinated.
- One bedroom is dedicated for a foster child. Children in treatment foster care require their own bedrooms. It gives them a private space to retreat to when they need time and space to calm down or think about what is going on around them.
- Home is free of second-hand smoke.
- General housekeeping standards are consistent with community norms: the home and furnishings must be clean and in good repair and rooms must be tidy.
- There is space in the bathroom for a child's own toothbrush, towel and facecloth.
- Floors have coverings such as carpet, hardwood or linoleum.
- Combustibles are stored outside, including propane cylinders (i.e. BBQ, Soldering torches).
- Alcoholic beverages are inaccessible to minors.

All these requirements do not need to be in place at the onset of applying to become a treatment foster parent. Your Recruiter/Trainer will assess your home and make recommendations that will need to be met prior to placing a child in your home.



Outdoors:

- Equipment such as lawn mowers and snow blowers are inaccessible to children.
- Garden tools are stored in a safe place.
- There is a safe place for pesticides and chemicals.
- Garages containing tools or chemicals are kept locked.
- The play area is free of litter and sharp objects.
- All play equipment such as swings; slides, climbing equipment are in good repair.
- If there is a swimming pool or hot tub, municipal safety standards are met.
- Any unused refrigerators or freezers must be stored with doors removed.

Farms:

- The farmyard is free of debris, glass, old cars, appliances, garbage, etc.
- If there are dugouts, wells, holes, ponds, sloughs or septic tanks on the farm, they are fenced or in some way protected from access by children.
- The machinery has guards around the belts and chains.
- Supervision is provided when children are around farm machinery, such as tractors, trucks or augers.
- Proper caution is taken when children are around livestock.
- Keys are taken out of the machinery, vehicles and snowmobiles when not in use.
- The workshop is inaccessible to children and kept locked.
- Caution is taken when using and storing fertilizers, chemicals and sprays.
- Medications and other treatments for farm animals are inaccessible to children.

General:

- An evacuation plan is posted.
- The family practices fire drills.
- A first aid kit and manual are available and easily located.
- There is a list of emergency telephone numbers posted (Algoma Family Services will provide one).
- The family practices universal precautions.
- Confidential records are stored in a locked and secured place.

After being accepted as a treatment foster family, this checklist is completed on a yearly basis as part of an annual Treatment Foster Home review. When changes occur to the home or property, they are reported to the program as "Changes in Circumstance", whether the change has been planned, such as a relative coming to live in the home for a short period of time, or unplanned changes such as a flood or other incident that impacts the home.