

# FOSTER HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

## FIRE AND HEALTH INSPECTION

- You must have a tagged **5-pound** fire extinguisher in the kitchen. If you have a two-story home, you must have a 3 pound or higher weight fire extinguisher on your second level. Each extinguisher must be inspected and tagged. Local providers for inspection include:  
  
***Longhorn Fire and Safety:** (512) 258-7233(Austin)*  
  
***1st Fire Safety:** 512-777-1555 (Cedar Park)*  
  
***Alliance Safety & Fire Protection:** 512-966-4488(Round Rock)*  
  
***Koetter:** 512-251-7888 (Pflugerville)*
- Working smoke detectors must be installed inside each bedroom and in the hallway nearest the bedrooms. Two-story homes require a working smoke detector at the top of the stairs.
- Chemicals, to include cleaning supplies, laundry detergents, lawn or pool chemicals, must be stored out of reach. Storage on a high shelf, behind a child-safety lock, or an actual lock is permissible.
- All electrical outlet not in use, must be covered with a plug cover. Even tamper proof outlets require a plug cover. Keep furniture, curtains, dish towels, and flammable materials at least three feet from any heat source.
- Exits should not be blocked by furniture

## MEDICATIONS

- Are **all** medications locked? This includes over the counter medications, refrigerated medications, and topical medications, as well as rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, etc. The lock must be combination, or keyed (i.e. toolbox with padlock)
- Topical medications should be stored in a Ziploc bag, inside the locked medication box.
- Schedule II (Psychotropic) Medications should be **double** locked. You may use a tool box with a lock on it, with an additional locked box inside the toolbox. All locks must have a key.
- You may NOT use the following to secure medications: Spring and release locks, cabinet sliding locks, magnetic locks, or doorknob covers.**
- Discontinued medications, expired medications, or medications for household members no longer in your home must be properly disposed of.

## BEDROOMS

- Bedrooms must have doors for privacy.
- Bedrooms may not be a passageway to other rooms.
- Shared or common living spaces may not be utilized as a bedroom, including dining or living rooms.
- All mattresses in the home used by children must have a **removable, washable waterproof pad that fits tightly on the mattress**
- Children 12 months or younger may not have the following in their crib: soft bedding, stuffed toys, pillows, bumper pads
- All mattresses must be properly supported and off the floor.
- Children over 3 years of age may not share a bedroom with a caregiver over 18.
- Children over 6 years of age may not share a bedroom with a child of the opposite gender.
- Bedrooms must have appropriate storage.
- Bedrooms must have at least one source of natural light.

## OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

- Outdoor equipment must not have openings, angles, or protrusions that can entangle a child's clothing or entrap a child's body or body parts
- Outdoor equipment must be securely anchored to prevent collapsing, tipping, sliding, moving, or overturning
- Climbing equipment, swings, and slides must not be installed over asphalt or concrete.
- Trampolines may only be used if:
  - The number of children allowed on the trampoline at one time meets the manufacturer's instructions
  - Shock-absorbing pads cover the springs, hooks, and frame
  - Ladders are removed from the trampoline when not in use
  - Must be enclosed with a net around the perimeter of the trampoline

## EQUIPMENT/WEAPONS IN THE HOME

- Store tools and sharp equipment properly (out of reach) to prevent injury.
- Place all chemicals and gasoline away from open flames.
- Store ladders away from children's reach.
- Store items that may be harmful to children, such as batteries, small items, cords, cleaning supplies or hoses out of reach of children
- Following equipment has safety straps: High Chair, swing, stroller, infant carrier, rocker, bouncer seat
- Following equipment may NOT be used: baby walker, baby bungee jumper, accordion safety gate.
- All weapons, to include firearms, hunting knives, arrows, explosives, etc. must be stored behind a secure lock, including a keyed or combination lock.
- All ammunition must be stored behind a secure lock, including a keyed or combination lock. If stored in the same space as the weapons, the weapon will require an additional lock, such as a trigger lock.
- If the storage is made of breakable material (glass, thin plastic, wood) the weapon will require an additional lock (trigger lock).

## SWIMMING POOLS

- Swimming pool must have a well-constructed fence/wall at least 4 feet high installed completely around the pool area. A traditional backyard fence is typically appropriate.
- Fence gates must be self-closing, self-latching, and locked when the pool is not in use; keys should be inaccessible to children under 16 years old
- Doors that lead from the home to pool area must have a lock that only adults or children over the age of 10 years old can reach
- At least 2 life saving devices must be available
- Pool chemicals and pumps must be inaccessible to children
- Machinery rooms must be locked
- Above ground pools must have a barrier that prevents a child's access with the ladder removed when the pool is not in use.
- Wading pools should be stored out of children's reach, stored so they do not hold water, and drained daily
- Hot tub requires a locking cover when not in use