

CoramBAAF Home Safety Checklist

(for use with Form C, Form F, Form PAR, and Form FR)

This form is intended for completion by the assessing social worker in partnership with applicant/s for adoption, foster care or special guardianship or with foster carer/s as part of the foster carer review process. The assessing social worker should be familiar with CoramBAAF Practice Note 61, *Home Safety Checks in Fostering and Adoption* (2016) or the relevant chapter in *Checks and References in Fostering and Adoption* (Adams, 2017).

Name of applicants/carers	
Date of safety check	

FIRE SAFETY	Safe	N/A	Unsafe
Smoke alarms (BS EN 14604:2005) are fitted and working on every level of the house. Date tested:			
Smoke alarm batteries have been replaced within the last year. Date replaced:			
Chimney flues have been inspected and swept within the last year (smokeless fuel) or six months (wood/coal). Date:			
Matches and lighters are safely stored (locked away or at or above adult eye height).			
Escape routes are planned, appropriate and understood by household members (household fire plan).			
Keys to window locks are accessible to adults and responsible children and young people, but not other children.			
A fireguard (BS 8423: 2010) and/or spark guard is used as appropriate on open fires and solid fuel burners.			
Electricity sockets are not overloaded (should not exceed 13 amps).			
There is no evidence of scorched sockets, frayed wires or anything to suggest an electrical check is needed.			
Any electrical work has been completed by a qualified and registered electrician.			

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FALLS Safe N/A Unsafe

Floors, stairs and outside spaces are well maintained, and free of obstacles and trip hazards.
Lighting is appropriate throughout the home.

Safety gates (BS EN 1930: 2011) are competently and securely fitted at the bottom of stairs.

Consideration has been given to the use of competently and securely fitted safety gates (BS EN 1930: 2011) upstairs/elsewhere.

Banisters are strong, with suitable gaps, not exceeding 6.5cm (ages 0–2) or 10cm with no horizontal rails or footholds for climbing (ages 2–5).

Child resistant window restrictors are fitted, with the gap not exceeding 10cm (ages 0–5), and taking into account fire escape routes.

Upper bunk beds have secure safety rails and ladders, and are not being used for children under the age of six.

Pushchairs, buggies and high chairs are in good condition with straps and harnesses.

Outdoor play equipment is safe and securely attached, and mounted over a suitable surface.

Trampolines are fitted with a safety net enclosure.

BURNS AND SCALDS Safe N/A Unsafe

Carers understand the need to run cold water before the hot water into baths, or thermostatic mixing valves have been fitted (ages 0–5).

Kettle cords are safely out of reach.

Consideration has been given to keeping children out of the kitchen when cooking.

A fireguard (BS 8423: 2010) is used on all types of fire to prevent young children being burned (ages 0–5).

Consideration has been given to the dangers linked to hot drinks.

Consideration has been given to the dangers linked to hair straighteners and irons.

~~Consideration has been given to the dangers linked to sunburn~~

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STRANGULATION AND SUFFOCATION	Safe	N/A	Unsafe
There are no blinds or curtains with cords that constitute a hazard.			
There are no hanging toys or draw-string bags that constitute a hazard.			
Plastic bags and nappy sacks are stored safely.			
Children are prevented from playing with rotary washing lines, ropes or cords.			
Cots are free from pillows, duvets, large toys and cot bumpers.			
Toys and other items with small parts are stored safely away from young children.			

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POISONING	Safe	N/A	Unsafe
Carbon monoxide alarms are fitted and working in rooms with a fuel-burning appliance. Date tested:			
Fuel-burning appliances have been serviced within the last year by a registered engineer. Date serviced:			
Medicines are safely stored.			
Shampoos and cosmetics are safely stored.			
Household chemicals such as cleaning materials, weed killer, anti-freeze, DIY materials and button batteries are safely stored.			
Alcohol and liquid nicotine (found in e-cigarettes) are safely stored.			
There are no known plants with poisonous leaves or berries.			

DROWNING	Safe	N/A	Unsafe
Ponds, swimming pools and other standing water are safely covered or securely fenced.			
Babies and young children are always supervised in the bath.			

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CUTTING AND CRUSH INJURIES	Safe	N/A	Unsafe
Low glass is either safety glass (BS 6206), covered with safety film or boarded up.			
Greenhouses are made of safety glass or safely fenced.			
Kitchen knives and razor blades are safely stored.			
Equipment, tools and sharp items used for work, DIY or hobbies are safely stored.			
Ceremonial swords are safely stored.			
Tall furniture and appliances are safe and secure, and fixed to the wall where necessary.			
Consideration has been given to fitting anti-finger trapping devices to prevent a toddler's fingers being trapped in doors (age 0–5).			
OTHER	Safe	N/A	Unsafe
The home is warm, in good decorative order, and furniture is sufficient, suitable and in good repair.			
The home and particularly the kitchen and bathroom are kept clean and hygienic.			

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The home is secured from inside to prevent toddlers and small children leaving unnoticed.			
Locks on bathroom doors are suitable and allow access in an emergency.			
Garden gates and fencing are secure to prevent toddlers and small children leaving while unattended.			
DVDs and video games are stored so that children cannot access inappropriate material.			
Home insurance is in place in line with local policy, and insurers have been informed if the applicant is fostering.			

VEHICLE SAFETY	Safe	N/A	Unsafe
All vehicles have up to date MOT certificates. Expiry date:			
All vehicles have up to date insurance and insurers are notified of fostering status. Expiry date:			
Driving licences have been seen for all those involved in transporting children.			
Appropriate car seats are correctly fitted and used.			

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SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES	
Firearms are stored on the property	YES/NO
The home is also a working farm	YES/NO
Hazardous work equipment/materials are stored on the property	YES/NO
If the answer is yes to any of these questions, please see CoramBAAF Practice Note 61, <i>Home Safety Checks in Fostering and Adoption</i> and provide additional information below.	

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APPLICANT/CARER DECLARATION

- I/we have read and considered home safety and accident prevention information provided by organisations such as the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) and others.
- I/we undertake to follow this safety advice and to make our supervising/assessing social worker aware of any known difficulties in doing this.
- I/we understand that we should use this form to review home safety before any placement and make adjustments according to the age and functioning of any child being placed, taking into account any information provided about their known behaviour.

Any comments:

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Signature of applicant/carer 1		Date	
Signature of applicant/carer 2		Date	

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SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENT

Subject to any outstanding actions noted below, a satisfactory home safety check has been completed in respect of the following age ranges:

0–2	YES/NO	2–5	YES/NO	5–11	YES/NO	11–18	YES/NO

Additional information

Blank area for additional information.

Outstanding action

Blank area for outstanding actions.

Signature of assessor		Name		Date	
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