

## Level I Child Specific Foster Home Licensure – Waivable Items Tip Sheet

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| <b>FSFN NAMING CONVENTION</b>            | <b>LICENSING STANDARD</b>  | <b>WHAT IS WAIVABLE</b>  | <b>WHAT IS NOT WAIVABLE</b>  | <b>EXAMPLES OF ACCOMMODATIONS</b>  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Environmental Health Inspection**</b> | Satisfactory home environmental health inspection completed with Foster Home Inspection Checklist (CF-FSP 5397) or similar checklist from local Department of Health | Home health inspection conducted by the Department of Health   | Checking the home for visual hazards i.e., refrigerator, toilets, baths, and showers are in good working order.  | Licensing Specialist conducts the home health inspection.  |
|  |  | Private well testing and results for bacteriological contamination, if the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost of the test and/or cost of disinfecting the well, when applicable | Walking the parameter of the home to visually check the garbage, septic tank, and sewage on the grounds; if there are any concerns, the Licensing Specialist must discuss it with the family and refer them to the appropriate services/resources.<br><br>Determine the family has an adequate supply of safe drinking water.  | If the well test results are unfavorable and the family is not financially able to disinfect the well, the family may elect to use an alternative water supply i.e., using bottled drinking water or boiling their water.<br><br>Licensing Specialist may contact the local utility company to obtain information regarding the history of the water supply i.e., any public notices to boil the water for a period. |
|  |  | Hot water at a max of 120F   | Running the hot water to visually check the water temperature.<br><br>Licensing Specialist should have a thermometer readily available to check the temperature of the water; if the temperature reading exceeds the recommended temperature, Licensing Specialist must discuss concerns and water safety precautions with the caregiver including documentation in a provider note. | The child is of age/maturity level to adjust the water temperature.<br><br>Additionally, Licensing Specialist will have a thermometer available to check water temperature.  |

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| Environmental Health Inspection** | Satisfactory home environmental health inspection completed with Foster Home Inspection Checklist (CF-FSP 5397) or similar checklist from local Department of Health | Thermometer accurate and provided in refrigerator   | Checking the refrigerator to observe the food storage practices and advising the caregiver of any concerns i.e., covering food vs storing in open containers and keeping the refrigerator set on the recommended setting noted on the equipment.<br><br>Storing cold food in a non-working refrigerator.                       | Licensing Specialist will have a thermometer available to check food temperature for cold food at 41F or lower and hot food at 140F or higher.  |
|                                   |  | All outside openings shall be effectively sealed or screened with 16 mesh screening or equivalent to prevent entry of insects, rodents, and other vectors and vermin.   | Checking the home to observe the conditions and advising the caregiver of any concerns.<br><br>Having a home with an observable infestation of insects, rodents, etc.  | Families may elect to use central air/heat and/or not open their windows during certain times of the day/year.  |
|                                   |  |   |  |   |
| Smoke Alarms                      | There is at least one (1) operating smoke alarm on each floor and in each bedroom area.  | Having multiple smoke detectors on each floor and multiple smoke detectors in each bedroom area; if the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost of providing additional smoke detectors and the CBC is unable to provide. | Licensing Specialist must visually observe the number of smoke detectors in the home, the location of each smoke detector, and the proximity of each detector to the child's sleeping area.<br><br>Having at least one smoke detector on each floor.<br><br>Having at least one smoke detector near the child's sleeping area. | Family may have one smoke detector on each floor and one smoke detector in the general vicinity where the child placed in the home will be sleeping.<br><br>Multiple smoke detectors in the sleeping areas are not required, based on licensing assessment of the location of the existing smoke detectors. |

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| <b>Fire Extinguisher</b> | Each floor in the home shall have a fully charged, unexpired 2A10BC fire extinguisher, with one extinguisher adjacent to the kitchen. | Unexpired 2A10BC fire extinguisher, and the caregiver or the CBC is not financially able to cover the cost. | Having a fire extinguisher and discussing and documenting fire safety.  | Families may use a temporary untagged fire extinguisher.   |
| <b>Trampoline</b>        | Trampolines shall have a safety net enclosure surrounding the trampoline  | Trampolines without safety net enclosure.   | Discussing and documenting use and supervision of the trampoline.   | Licensing Specialist may verbally discuss use of trampoline and supervision of the children.                             |
| <b>First Aid Kit</b>     | First aid kit must be available and accessible to all caregivers  | A complete first aid kit, if the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost of a kit.              | Discussing and documenting alternatives to having a first aid kit to include having a supply of band aids and/or having the means to obtain a first aid kit, if needed. | Family may elect to use alternative first aid methods/supplies and verbally discuss these with the Licensing Specialist. |

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| <b>Home Telephone</b>            | Home shall have a working telephone that is accessible at all times. Emergency numbers displayed. Caregivers are to notify agency of phone number changes.                                | A telephone or cell phone inside the home is not required.<br><br>Emergency numbers displayed is not required. | Discussing and documenting how the caregiver or child will call for help if there is an emergency and how the CBC/CMO may contact the caregiver.  | The caregiver may have neighbors and can use the neighbor's phone in the case of emergencies.  |
| <b>Carbon Monoxide</b>           | The home must not be heated by unvented oil or gas-fired heaters unless equipped with an oxygen depletion sensor and the home has a carbon monoxide alarm.                                | Carbon monoxide, if applicable and the caregiver or CBC is not financially able to cover the cost.             | Discussing and documenting any concerns; if gas and oil equipment is used inside the home, the Licensing Specialist should review carbon monoxide information and document in a provider note.  | Family elects to shut off gas valve when family members are home and/or not use the gas or oil equipment in the home i.e., discontinue use of a kerosene heater. |
| <b>Evacuation Plan Posted **</b> | An evacuation plan is posted in a conspicuous place and shared with the children.   | Physical documentation of the evacuation plan posted in the home.  | Discussing and documenting in the home study what the family's plan is should evacuation be needed, including where the family will relocate to and a means to contact the family; documentation should be in the home study and shared with case management. | Licensing Specialist may verbally discuss evacuation plans with the caregiver and document the information in the home study.                                    |
| <b>Hot Surface Shield</b>        | All fireplaces, space heaters, steam radiators, and hot surfaces must be shielded against accidental contact. A barrier shall restrict access by children less than six (6) years of age. | If applicable and the caregiver or CBC is not financially able to cover the cost.                              | Discussing and documenting in the home study; consider age and maturity of the child and the caregiver's relationship/ability to redirect the child from the hot surface area.  | Licensing Specialist may verbally discuss any concerns and document in the home study.   |

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| <b>Two Bedroom Exits</b>   | Each bedroom shall have at least two (2) means of exit in case of emergency. Bedrooms above ground level must have a means of escape that will allow for safe exit. If the child's bedroom is equipped with burglar bars, the caregiver shall demonstrate that the burglar bars can be released to allow exit. A key placed near a window does not qualify as an approved emergency release method. Age-appropriate training on opening of the burglar bars shall be provided to each child upon placement. | One (1) exit in each bedroom; family may have remodeled or changed/ rearranged a room in the home to accommodate the child.<br><br>Safety ladder for multiple level homes are not required if the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost of providing a ladder and the CBC is unable to support. | Burglar bars located in the child's bedroom must have a release to allow exit.<br><br>Observing the child's bedroom to ensure the room has adequate lighting and ventilation and identifying at least one (1) exit in the child's bedroom.<br><br>Discussing and documenting in the home study; consider age and maturity of the child to use the exit in case of emergency. | Family may have a bedroom with a window air condition unit, a window that does not fully open, or a window is small and high off the ground.<br><br>Licensing Specialist may verbally discuss any concerns with the caregiver and document in the home study.           |
| <b>Licensed Child Care</b> | Child care for children in licensed out-of-home care shall be in a licensed early education or child care program chosen by the caregiver(s). These providers must be participating in local ELC. The cost of child care shall be assumed by licensed out-of-home caregiver to the extent that subsidized child care is unavailable.  | Licensed and out-of-home  | Discuss and document child care arrangements with the caregiver to identify another person(s) who may be caring for the child in the caregiver's absence.  | If the child is not in a daycare or child care setting at the time of removal, the caregiver may keep the child home or placed in a setting that is not licensed.<br><br>The caregiver may make child care arrangements that align with the best interest of the child. |

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| <b>Home Space and Furnishings</b> | The home shall have space and furnishings to accommodate the number of people living in the home and be accessible to all members of the family.    | Space and furnishing to accommodate ALL members of the home.  | Licensing Specialist must ensure that there is adequate sleeping space and furnishing for the children i.e., bedroom designated for the children. | <p>Some family members may choose to share beds, sleep in the living room, sleep in a den, etc.</p> <p>Families may provide additional dining seating by using TV dinner trays.</p> <p>Families may provide additional common area seating i.e., insufficient couches may be addressed with use of folding chairs or sitting on the floor.</p> |
| <b>Individual Bed</b>             | Each child shall be provided with a clean, permanent bed and mattress of his/her own. The bed shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the child. | His/her own bed, and the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost of another bed and the CBC is not able to support. | <p>A clean, permanent bedding is required.</p> <p>No temporary bedding i.e., sleeping bag on the floor, air mattress, or lawn chair/cot.</p>      | <p>Children may share a bed with a sibling, relative, or non-relative of similar age and gender, if there are no other safety concerns.</p> <p>A futon bed located in the child's bedroom may be acceptable bedding for a child based on age and weight/size.</p>  |

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| <b>Infant Crib</b>            | <p>Infants shall have their own crib which shall be maintained in good and safe condition and have a clean mattress that fits snugly in the crib frame. Cribs shall not have drop sides or be placed close to windows with curtains or cords in which the child might become entangled.</p> <p>Infants 12 months of age or younger may share a bedroom with an adult provided the infant sleeps in his/her crib.</p> | Type of infant bedding  | <p>No co-sleeping for babies under the age of 18 months.</p> <p>No drop sides.</p> <p>The Licensing Specialist must assess the size of the infant in comparison to the crib to determine appropriateness.</p> | <p>Alternative acceptable bedding for infants include pack and play or bassinet.</p> <p>Twins over the age of 18 months may share a bed, based upon temperament, age, and weight/size.</p> |
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| <b>Bunk Beds</b>              | Bunk beds shall be safe and sturdy. Bunk beds shall be equipped with safety rails on the upper tier for a child under the age of ten (10) or for any child whose physical, mental, or emotional condition indicates the need for such protection. Beds bunked higher than two tiers must have a manufacturer sticker of safety and must not be placed under or near ceiling fans. Children five (5) years old and younger may not sleep on the third tier of a three-tiered bunk bed. | Use of top bunk without a safety rail by a child under the age of ten (10), based upon Licensing Specialist assessing for size and maturity of the child to safely navigate to a top bunk, if the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost of providing a safety rail and the CBC is not able to support. | Discussing bunk bed sleeping arrangements with the caregiver and child and documenting any concerns in the home study. | <p>The child is of age/maturity/size to navigate and sleep on top bunk.</p> <p>Family may consider disassembling the bunk bed into two (2) twin beds.</p> |
| <b>Waterproof Cover</b>       | A licensed out-of-home caregiver shall provide each child with clean linens. Waterproof mattress covers should be provided for all beds and cribs as developmentally appropriate and necessary.   | Use of waterproof mattress cover, if applicable based on the child's age and maturity level and the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost and the CBC is not able to support   | Clean linens;<br>Discuss mattress cleanliness with the caregiver and document any concerns in a provider note.         | Family may consider purchasing pull ups or covering the bed with a garbage bag, if it is discussed that the child is frequently wetting the bed.          |



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| <b>Bedroom Location</b>       | The entry to a child's bedroom shall not be located so as to require the child to pass through another bedroom or bathroom in order to enter their bedroom. | Child's room may have a pass through to another room.   | Assessing for age and developmental maturity of the child and appropriateness of the sleeping arrangements; and<br><br>Discussing sleeping arrangements with the caregiver and child and documenting any concerns in the home study.  | Family may determine sleeping arrangements that include a child sleeping in a bedroom that has a connecting door to a bathroom and a sign is used to indicate when the bathroom is in use to provide privacy to the child and other household members. |
| <b>Child Bed Sharing</b>      | Children shall never share a bed with an adult or other child, regardless of age.   | Children sharing a bed is allowed when: the children are age 18 months to six (6) years old, related to each other, have no other safety concerns, and the caregiver is not financially able to cover the cost of another bed and the CBC is not able to support. | No sharing a bed with another adult.<br><br>No sharing a bed by children over the age of six (6) and not related.<br><br>Assessing for age and developmental maturity of the child and appropriateness of the sleeping arrangements.<br><br>Discussing sleeping arrangements with the caregiver and child and documenting any concerns in the home study. | Family may determine sleeping arrangements that include the child(ren) sharing a bed with another child i.e., six-year-old female sibling shares a full-size bed with her five-year-old male sibling, and there are no other safety concerns.          |

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| <b>Gender Bedroom Sharing</b> | Children over 36 months of age shall not share a bedroom with a child of the opposite gender unless efforts are being made to maintain a sibling group. In instances where efforts are being made to maintain a sibling group, the foster family, Licensing Specialist, and Case Manager shall work together in determining arrangements for the safety and best interests of the children involved. | Opposite gender children sharing a bedroom is allowed when: the children are age 0 to six (6) years old, related to each other, and have no other safety concerns. | <p>No bedroom sharing by opposite gender children over the age of six (6) and not related.</p> <p>Assessing for age and developmental maturity of the child and appropriateness of the sleeping arrangements.</p> <p>Discussing sleeping arrangements with the caregiver and child and documenting any concerns in a provider note.</p> | Family may determine sleeping arrangements that include child(ren) over 36 months and opposite gender sharing a room i.e., four-year-old male sibling sleeping in his own twin bed that is in the same bedroom as a five-year-old female cousin, and there are no identified safety concerns. |
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