

Yolo County Department of Social Services

Home Safety Checklist

The following checklist is intended to be used as a guide while you evaluate your home and yard for safe conditions. In going through your home, use this checklist, indicating "Yes" "No", or "N/A" (non-applicable).

Yes No N/A

- Are traffic patterns and stairways free of clutter? Are there guard rails on stairs?
- Are floors free of tripping hazards? (e.g. electric cords, throw rugs, toys)
- Are screens and windows in good repair? Can bedroom windows be easily opened?
- Do you use lead-free paint for refinishing toys and children's furniture?
- Is your fence in good condition? Are there any protruding nails or loose boards?
- Does your yard-gate latch securely?
- Have you had your woodpile sprayed for black widow spiders or have you re-stacked the wood in the past six months? Is wood safely stacked?
- Is your garbage area clean and safe? Are tools safely stored?
- Do you check your yard daily for hazards such as broken glass, sharp objects, toadstools and dog droppings?
- Do you have decals on glass doors and windows at children's eye level?
- Are matches, lighters, candles, and other tempting fire hazards out of reach?
- Do you keep flammable liquids such as gasoline and paint thinner outdoors in appropriate, tightly-capped metal containers?
- Have you developed a fire drill and emergency exit plan for your foster children? Have you held practice fire drills?
- If you have a two-story house, are there throw ladders available for exiting?
- Do you have a working smoke detector in your bedroom hallway area?
- Is your hot water temperature set between 105 - 102 or set at warm?
- Are all flammables stored away from the water heater and furnace?
- Do you know how to shut off the gas, water, and electricity in an emergency situation?
- Are there guards around floor and wall furnaces where the grills become overheated?
- Are fireplaces and wood-burning stoves properly screened?
- Are all caustics, poisons or garden sprays stored in cupboards out of reach of children? (Poisons need to be locked up)
- Are all medicines and razor blades out of the reach of children? Check especially for prescription drugs, aspirin, wintergreen oil, alcohol, antihistamines, iron pills and vitamins. Store these in a locked cabinet or locked box. Refrigerated medicines also need to be locked.
- Do you have a first aid kit that includes a First Aid Manual, sterile dressings, adhesive tape, scissors, thermometer, tweezers, antiseptic solution?
- Have you checked play areas for poisonous plants? Examples include dieffenbachia, monkshood, foxglove, nicotiana, rhubarb, and potato leaves, atropa, belladonna, jessamine, daphne, laurel, azaleas, rhododendrons, castor beans, lantana, oleander, yew, chinaberry, jimson weed and nightshade. If you have any of these plants, have you taken steps to protect children from poisoning?