

Home Conditions Assessment Tool



Home Conditions Assessment Tool



What does it do?

This is a short assessment of the home conditions, and their impact on any children or young people who live there.

It considers 22 aspects of home conditions such as odour, cleanliness and home maintenance. It concludes with a decision about the level of concern, what actions need to be taken, what tasks have been identified, and who needs to do them.

How do I use it?

The home conditions assessment is best to complete jointly with parents/carers. This creates openness and a common understanding of any wellbeing need and areas causing concern. Progress can be tracked over time on a separate sheet. Families should normally be provided with copies of their assessments.

Consider each of the 22 factors listed and select the statement that best describes the home conditions. Each item can be scored 0 – 3.

Record in each 'notes' section a description of what you have seen and the impact on the child (Preferably in the family's own words). When all sections have been completed 'flag' those that need attention before the next visit. This prioritises any follow up actions or tasks required.

If there is more than one child, it may be appropriate to complete the assessment in relation to the child most affected by the home conditions.

Copyright & Development:

The home conditions tool has been developed by Bruce Thornton and Associates (www.bruce-thornton.info) whom retain the copy right.

It was adapted and developed from :Family Pack questionnaires & scales- The Stationary Office.

How Long?

About 45 minutes when completed with the parents/ Carer

Further Guidance?

Yes

Home Conditions Assessment Tool

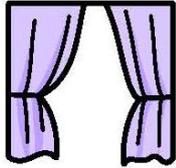
Child's Name		Date of Birth/CHI (dd/mm/yy)	
Worker's Name		Date Completed (dd/mm/yy)	
Address Assessed			
Parent/Carer Name(s)		Carefirst Number(s)	
Agency		Announced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of family member(s) present during assessment		Unannounced	<input type="checkbox"/>

Items (Section A)

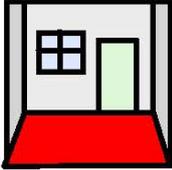
1

Strong odour (e.g. smell of mould or rotten food, cigarette smoke, pets or urine) 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

2

Inadequate seating, home furnishings, curtains or floor covering (e.g. no chairs or tables, no curtains or curtains always closed) 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

3

<p>General decorative order is poor (e.g. obviously in need of attention, stained or damaged walls, broken doors or windows)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

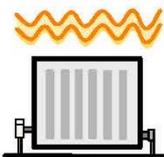
4

<p>Floors are dirty (covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

5

<p>Basic services are not working in the house (e.g. water, electricity, gas or heating) Basic services are not working in the house (e.g. water, electricity, gas or heating)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

6

<p>Home is not at an appropriate temperature for the weather conditions.</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

7

<p>Kitchen sink, draining board, work surface, cooker, fridge or cupboard doors are dirty.</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

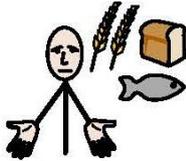
8

<p>Cooking implements, cutlery or crockery dirty (e.g. showing ingrained dirt and /or these items remain unwashed until needed again)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

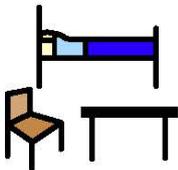
9

Essential appliances are not in full working order (e.g. fridge, washing machine etc)		Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
		Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
		Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
		Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:			<input type="checkbox"/>

10

There is a lack of food or food is inadequate (e.g. none or little food in cupboards)		Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
		Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
		Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
		Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:			<input type="checkbox"/>

11

Beds, furnishings or furniture is dirty (e.g. broken or stained)		Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
		Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
		Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
		Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:			<input type="checkbox"/>

12

<p>Bedding is unsuitable (e.g. no beds, mattresses or appropriate bed clothes on the children's beds – must be seen)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

13

<p>Sleeping arrangements are unsuitable/unsafe (e.g. locks/bolts on the outside of bedroom doors, overcrowding, cot unavailable, bed sharing; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS))</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

14

<p>Toilet, bath, shower or sink dirty and /or inaccessible (e.g. stained, broken, being used as storage or showing ingrained dirt)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

15

Toys are unavailable for the children (e.g. little evidence of toys or play items/equipment for the children) 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

16

House is cluttered (e.g. extreme clutter or hoarding, bin bags or clothing or toys left everywhere which may pose a safety risk to children or lack of space for play) 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes (Do you need to consider referral to housing? or Fire service, for a Home fire Safety check?)	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

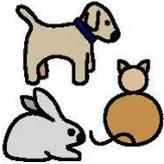
17

House hazardous to children (e.g. broken electrical sockets, trip hazards no smoke alarms, lack of appropriate safety equipment such as safety gates or fire guards) 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

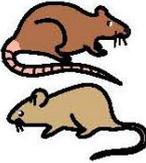
18

Evidence of drug paraphernalia (e.g. exposed needles, other drug paraphernalia visible and/or within children’s reach) 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

19

Pets are present in the house which could be hazardous (e.g. aggressive or threatening animals or excessive number of animals in the house) 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

20

There are rodents or rodent damage to the property 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

21

<p>Hazardous items are stored inappropriately (e.g. Cleaning products, alcohol, prescription medication, razors are within reach of young children)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

22

<p>General appearance of the outside of the house, windows or garden is poor (e.g. uncared for, broken doors or windows, littered, animal faeces or containing dangerous items, broken bottles or prams)</p> 	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Notes	Flag for attention:		<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Score (Section B)	
Number of items where score is 3	
Number of items where score is 0	
Number of Items where score is 2	
Number of items where score is 1	
Number of items flagged as requiring attention	

(Section C) Please provide any additional Parent/Carer/Child/Young Person's views below.

Assessment Decision: (Section D) Please record your decisions after completing the home conditions Assessment. Areas scored 3 are 'very apparent/ serious impact'. If these indicate a Child Protection concern, Child Protection procedures must be followed. This should be discussed with your Team Manager/Leader.

I am very concerned about the impact of the home conditions on the child	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have some concerns about the impact of the home conditions on the child	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have no concerns about the impact of the home conditions on the child	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further visit required to monitor progress	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planned visit?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unplanned visit?	<input type="checkbox"/>

