# **Framework for recording the condition of a home**



This tool is designed to assist practitioners to identify the home conditions that children and their families are experiencing – it should be undertaken with parents to establish areas where improvements are required and areas were a good standard is being achieved so that a clear baseline can be evidenced and tracked over time.

For children with disability who have equipment/adaptations for disabled child? Consider:

* Being used and in good repair.
* Being used but looking unclean/unhygienic.
* Being used and in poor repair/ill fitting.
* Not being used.

Photographs can be helpful to identify when a good standard is met or to record where improvements are required/record of no change. **The undertaking of a conditions of home should be recorded on LCS/EHM and noted on chronology and uploaded to Documents.**

**Date: Family: Name of Worker:**

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|  | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Level 4** |
| **Living area/ room** | * Walls in good condition.
* Carpeted or otherwise covered floor (such as vinyl or wood). Suitable for age of children in the home
* Warm
* Clean
* Evidence of toys for age of children.
* Child safety features apparent – stairgate – child locks
* Safe lighting and enough ventilation.
* Blinds/curtains for the windows.
* If animals in the house – they are cared for and have space
* Space for child play
* Clean space to eat
* **Alcohol and substance out of child reach in locked box**
 | * Decor in reasonable condition
* Adequate floor covering for age of children.
* Warm enough
* Too much or not enough or no suitable furniture
* Place to eat
* Clean washing or ironing on the chairs and/or tables.
* Some child safety features
* If animals present - animal food or litter trays in child’s space
* Some evidence of cleaning
 | * Broken/non-existent carpeting and floor
* Some peeling paper/ paint on walls
* Clutter/hording which blocks exits
* Too much or not enough or no suitable furniture
* No eating area for the child/ren
* Few safety features
* Feels cold at times
* Few toys or toys unsuitable for age of the child/ren
* Evidence of significant animal hairs on furniture & floor –
* Animal food and /or litter tray in the room – overflowing.
* Some dirty clothes on the floor or surfaces
* Disordered
* Smells stale (cigarette/cannabis) or smells strongly of animals
* Evidence of stale food.
* Many animals in the house with equipment
* Empty/partially full wine/cans of alcohol left out
 | **As level 3 and/or:*** Dangerous cupboards and/or furniture
* Animal excrement on floors.
* Stale or mouldy food evident on floors and/or surfaces
* Broken chairs, broken/ missing doors, furniture too limited for all family to sit in the room.
* No table or other surface for eating
* No toys for age of child toys, no space for play
* Broken windows, curtains rarely opened, stale smell of animals and humans, possibly including smell of urine from bedrooms or bathroom
* Animals and their needs dominate the household
* Child can access adult materials – video games/adult pornography
* Child can access drug and alcohol substances or paraphernalia – over flowing ashtrays – strong smell of cannabis and cigarette smoke – especially of concern if children are asthmatic
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| **Kitchen** | * Cupboards in good condition
* Clean sink, floors and surfaces.
* Fridge is clean
* All food is in date, stored appropriately and suitable for the age of the children
* Waste bins are clean and not over filled
* Formula milk is stored appropriately
* Animal feed bowls and litter trays are clean and do not smell
* Bottle sterilising equipment is clean and visible where needed
 | * Decoration is old but of adequate condition
* Surfaces and sink are cluttered but plates and pans are clean or about to be washed
* Surfaces have some fresh stains or food remains but are generally clean
* The fridge has spillages, but food is suitable for the age of the children and stored well
* Cupboards are old with some broken hinges but serviceable
* Formula milk is stored appropriately
* Rubbish bins are full and smell stale
* Animal feed bowls and litter trays are stale and there is some smell to them
* Sterilising equipment is clean and visible where needed
* There is a working washing machine and signs of washing taking place e.g. clothes arranged for washing
 | * Decoration is old and in need of repair, with peeling paper or flaking paint
* Cupboards are in poor repair with damage to doors or missing doors
* There is little evidence of food preparation; used formula milk bottles are to be seen unwashed and unemptied
* Animal feed bowls & litter trays are stale/smell
* Rubbish bins and animal litter trays are overflowing, with an obvious stale smell
* Surfaces are cluttered and have old as well as fresh stains and spillage on them.
* The sink is dirty and cluttered
* There is little evidence of food and limited availability of food suitable for the child/ren.
* The fridge is dirty – spillage and items out of date/rotten
* Where needed, sterilising equipment is dirty or non-existent or the parent is seen using it inappropriately e.g. without washing hands after changing the baby's nappy.
* Floors are soiled with mud or other substances (name them if possible)
 | * The kitchen is in very poor repair with inadequate cooking facilities
* The fridge has visible dirt/mould or doesn't work.
* Windows/doors may be broken
* There is no sign of food for the children
* The cupboards are broken.
* There is a pungent smell of old rubbish and/or animal food and excreta and the floor is dirty stained with mud and other matter
* There is animal excrement in the litter trays/on the floor.
* Decaying/stale/mouldy food is visible on the surfaces
* Surfaces are covered by other matter such as papers and/r equipment e.g. working tools or machinery
* The washing machine is broken
* There are piles of dirty clothes on the floor/ on the surfaces
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| **Bedroom (S) Child**  | * Decorated and warm – feel like a child’s room
* Ordered and well ventilate.
* Beds with clean mattresses and bedding.
* Child safety features apparent.
* Curtains or blinds at the windows
* Clothing stored in wardrobes, cupboards and/or drawers
* Toys for children are appropriate for their age.
* Place to study/learn
* If sharing child has own space
 | * Old décor but reasonable
* Curtains/blinds at the window – privacy
* Bedrooms are warm and well ventilated
* Beds may be old but suitable for the child’s age with clean mattresses and bedding.
* Children have night wear
* Some safety features are present and; toys are suitable for age of child.
* The room may have clothes/toys on the floor/surfaces, but these are clean.
 | * Walls may have peeling paper/paint with some evidence of damp or mould.
* The rooms have heating at sometimes during the day/night – can be cold.
* The room is poorly ventilated. Windows may be in poor repair/broken. It may not be possible to open them
* Curtains/blinds may be in poor condition – no privacy, non-existent or rarely opened to ventilate the room. The room smells stale
* Beds may be broken.
* Mattresses and bedding are on the beds, but these are dirty, stale smell of sweat and/or urine
* There may be evidence of animals, such as animal hair on the floor, or animal cages may be present in in the room
* The bedroom door may be broken
* There is a lack of storage space.
 | * There is a chaotic and disorganised environment with dirty clothes on the floors
* There are no beds; there may be mattresses on the floor.
* Bedding is limited; there may be coats or other materials to act as bedding, which is dirty and smelling of sweat and urine
* There is no storage, or this may be overflowing with disordered clothing, toys, or other objects
* There is evidence of animals using the room, animal hair, animal faeces/urine
* The room is poorly ventilated with inadequate window covering – broken windows
* The room may be too hot or cold, with inadequate heating source
* Child can access sex toys and contraception
* Child can access drug and alcohol substances or paraphernalia
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| **Bathroom** | * Clean surfaces and floors;
* Hot and cold water available.
* Cleaning and medication/razors products stored safely with child locks on cupboards.
* Towels present are clean Evidence of toothbrushes/toothpaste for all family members.
 | * Old decor but reasonable
* Hot and cold water available.
* Cleaning and other products stored safely with child locks on cupboards.
* Old but clean toilet.
* Floor and surfaces, bath and sink show some stains and need to be cleaned.
* Towels are worn but clean.
* Evidence of toothbrushes and toothpaste for all family
 | * Walls have peeling paint or paper.
* Mould evident on walls.
* Serviceable but soiled toilet, or serviceable toilet but broken toilet seat.
* Dirty bath and sink (describe dirt if possible).
* Limited hot water, cold water available.
* Limited child safety features.
* Towels are dirty/damp and few.
* Old toothbrushes and limited/no availability of toothpaste for children or others.
* Evidence that animals use the bathroom for sleeping or other purposes, e.g. litter trays, excrement on floor.
* Stale smell of refuse or animal excrement.
* Damage to cupboards or other equipment, e.g. doors hanging off or non-existent.
* Medication and razors in the bathroom accessible for children
 | As level 3 and/or* No evidence of child safety features.
* No evidence of toothbrushes or toothpaste for the children.
* No towels or dirty/damp towels.
* Floor soiled with stains of identifiable human excreta.
* Animal excrement present on floor or in bath/sink.
* Broken toilet or bath or sink.
* No water supply.
* Strong smell of animal/human excrement.
* Broken cupboards or other equipment.
* Bathroom unusable by humans.
* Medication and razors in the bathroom accessible for children left out for children
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| **Garden** | * The garden is well maintained with garden equipment/products safely stored.
* Ponds and water butts are covered, and child safety features are
* apparent.
* If animals are present, there is no sign of animal faeces.
 | * The garden is somewhat untidy; there may be motor bikes/ cars under maintenance but there is evidence of child safety features as in Grade 1.
* There are places for children to play.
* Animals are present and there is evidence of animal faeces, but this is cleaned away promptly.
 | * The garden is overgrown.
* Cars and/or other mechanical equipment are present in various states of repair.
* There may be furniture in the garden such as sofas/armchairs.
* Broken glass or other hazards are evident.
* There is some play space for the children.
* Several animals are evident as in Grade 2.
* There are few child safety features.
 | * The hazards as described in level 3 or the family have not responded to advice to improve the situation.
* Garden completely overgrown and difficult to access.
* Old, broken animal cages/ evidence of animal faeces on grass or paths
* Animals dominate the household.
* Broken glass or other hazards accessible to children.
* Access to the house is limited.
* Doors to the house are difficult to open or broken.
* There is no space for the children to play.
* There are no child safety features
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Hoarding – use the attached images to assess level of hoarding 

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| Nature of Housing: Owned, Private Tenancy or Social Housing – name of Landlord/Agency: Brief overview of the families current housing circumstances:* Any issues around overcrowding. What is being done to try and address this?
* Issues that are related to landlords’ responsibilities and what has been done so far to address these concerns
* Structural issues that are out of families control; and impact on children such as damp, inadequate heating/ventilation
* Identify any gaps in housing benefit and rent due to cost being over the local housing allowance that may impact on family’s finances.
* Home unsuitable for disabled child.
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| **Additional comments and actions to TAF, CIN, CP plan:**  |