

Welcome Book:

If Someone New Came Into My Family I would tell them:

Insert picture of your house. What child will see when drives up to house to be placed.

Family Name

Our family:

Foster Adoptive Father's Name:

Foster Adoptive Mother's Name:

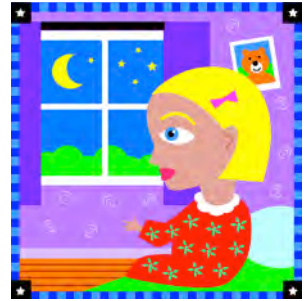
List of all children in home and their ages:

List names of pets in home:

Picture of foster adoptive parents, picture of everyone in the family, and please include a picture of the pets.



Where I will sleep and keep my clothes:



Where will I sleep?

Where will I keep my clothes?

What am I expected to do daily beside make my bed, keep my room tidy and clean up after myself?

May I have my friends visit in my bedroom and may I shut the door when they are visiting?

May I put posters and pictures on the walls in my room? If so, what may I use to hang them?

What time must I get up? On weekdays? On weekends?

What time must I go to bed? On school nights? On weekends?

Special occasions?

Can I have friends spend the night? If so, what are the rules?

Can I have friends over during the day? If so, what are the rules?





Meals and Kitchen

What times are meals scheduled?

Breakfast?

Lunch?

Dinner?



What do I do if we are not going to be home for a meal?

Can I make myself a snack or a meal?

Are there certain restrictions or limits on eating food?

May I help myself to a snack?

What do I do with my plate, utensils and glass when we finish a meal?

Do I have permanent responsibilities in regard to mealtime, such as setting the table, clearing the dishes, washing or drying the dishes, etc?

Who washes the dishes and who cleans the kitchen?

Who takes the trash outside?





Laundry and Bathroom



What do I do with my dirty clothes, linen and towels?



Am I responsible for washing my own clothes? Is so, how do I operate the washer and dryer?

Where can I keep my personal toilet articles?



When is the best time for me to shower/bathe?

With whom, will I be sharing a bathroom, and what are the rules?

Do I have restrictions on how long or how many showers I can take a day?



Our House

What areas in the home are “public areas” and what areas of the home are totally private?

What are the guidelines to watching TV or using the VCR/DVD player or stereo system or game system?

How late may I watch TV? Do I need permission?

What are the rules regarding making and receiving phone calls?

What are the rules regarding computer use?

What is the time limit?

How frequently may I use the Internet or e-mail services?

Can I write my family a letter?



Transportation

What do I do about transportation to and from school?

Who and what phone number do I call if I need to stay after school or be picked up early?

Transportation to and from recreational activities?

How much notice do I need to give to get a ride somewhere?

What guidelines should I observe?

What time must I be home? On school nights? On weekends?

What should I do if I could be late coming home?



Family Activities



Things we like to do as a family?

What is the family rule about church?

When is everyone's birthday? How do we celebrate?

What else should I know about the family that will help us adjust to each other?



Things that make us laugh:



Things that upset us as a family:



Things I would like
them to know about me:



Things I would want
to know about them:



House Rules



PRIVACY

Everyone has a right to privacy. Knock when a door is closed. (Locked doors can be a safety hazard if a child needs help. If people always knock and get permission to enter, locks are not needed).

BEDROOMS

Children of opposite sex should not share a bedroom after five years of age.
Children should not share a bedroom with foster parents after age one.

Foster children of any age should not be allowed to get in bed with the foster parents.

CLOTHING

Children of any age should not be outside the bedroom or bathroom in underwear or skimpy pajamas without a robe or fully covered. Skimpy clothes should be restricted to the pool or beach.

TOUCHING

No one touches another person without permission. No one touches another person's private parts (area covered by a bathing suit) except for a medical examination or assistance in bathing and toileting. Young children should be taught and encouraged to take responsibility for cleaning themselves.

THE RIGHT TO SAY "NO"

Everyone in the family has the right to say "no" to hugging, kissing, touching or any other form of interaction that is potentially sexual. This doesn't mean saying "no" to chores other responsibilities.

LANGUAGE

Suggestive or obscene language is inappropriate. Similar conversations are considered "Bathroom" talk and not to be discussed with other people. If you have a question or concern, please speak to an adult in the home.

No “Secrets”

Although each person in the family has a right to privacy, there will be no secret games, especially secrets with adults. Differentiate this from “surprises” such as planning a special gift.

BEING ALONE WITH ONE OTHER PERSON

Whenever possible, for the protection of all children (our own and foster children), adults or children should not go off alone together in a twosome, or stay alone together at home.

WRESTLING, TICKLING

These are normal childhood behaviors; however, we need to be careful and stop when someone asks you to stop.

BEHAVIORS AND FEELINGS

There is a difference between feelings and behavior. Feelings are OK. We are responsible for our behavior. Behavior is defined as appropriate or inappropriate to a situation (Not “nasty”, “bad”, and “disgusting”). We don’t embarrass people about their feelings.