

 **HOME CONDITIONS: ASSESSMENT TOOL**

**What does it do?**

This is a short assessment of the home conditions and their impact on the children who live there. It considers 20 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 need to be done and who needs to do them.

**How do I use it?**

The scale is scored from O - 3 for each item and includes an area to make notes or record evidence. Mark the description that best represents the conditions in the home and their impact on the child. If there are different age children, complete the assessment in relation to the 111ost vulnerable child. For example, the impact will be greater depending on the age and ability of the child (e.g. a badly soiled floor will have a different impact on a child who is crawling compared to an older child). Particular home conditions may prompt task (e.g. clearing of rubbish from home) and a subsequent review would establish whether there has been any improvement.

It is best completed in the home in partnership with the family, but could be done in the office. See the guidance below.

The Graded Care Profile is another assessment tool that can be used to assess neglect. It includes home conditions but also includes other areas to provide a more comprehensive assessment.

**How long should it take?**

About 45 minutes if completed with the parents.

**Background**

Developed: This has been developed by Bruce Thornton and Associates ([www.bruce-thornton.info](http://www.bruce-thornton.info)).

Original Source: Adapted and developed from Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales – The Stationery Office.

**Guidance**

Guidance: The Home Conditions assessment is best completed jointly with the parents. This creates greater openness and a common understanding of the areas that may cause concern. Improvement can be tracked over time, giving families a clear record of their progress. Please consider each of the 20 factors listed and select the statement that best describes the home conditions. You should record brief notes about why you've chosen that option. You may wish to flag the factor for immediate attention. This will help to

prioritise any follow up actions that are required. If there is more than one child in the family, it is best to complete the assessment in relation to the child on which the home conditions affect the most.

**HOME CONDITIONS: ASSESSMENT TOOL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child’s Name** |  | **Age** |  | **Date of Birth** |  |
| **Worker’s Name** |  | **Date Completed** |  |
| **Parent/Carer Name** |  | **Reference Number** |  |
| **Name of Agency** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please confirm whether the Home Conditions were assessed as part of an announced or unannounced visit. | Announced |[ ]
|  | Unannounced |[ ]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please confirm whether the Home Conditions was undertaken jointly with the parent (or family/carer etc.) | With family |[ ]
|  | Without family |[ ]

**Scale**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Strong odour (e.g. smell of mould or rotten food or urine)**
 |  |  |  |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Kitchen floor is dirty (e.g. covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Floor is dirty in other rooms (e.g. covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **General decorative order is poor (e.g. obviously in need of attention, stained or damaged walls, broken doors or windows)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Kitchen sink, draining board, work surfaces, cooker, fridge or cupboard doors are dirty**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Cooking implements, cutlery or crockery dirty (e.g. showing ingrained dirt and/or these items remain unwashed until they are needed again)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Toilet, bath or basin dirty (e.g. stained, broken or showing ingrained dirt)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

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| --- |
| 1. **Beds, furnishings or furniture dirty (e.g. broken or stained)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Parents or children’s clothing dirty (e.g. unwashed, smelling) or hair dirty or matted)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **General appearance of house, garden or yard is poor (e.g. uncared for, strewn with rubbish, containing dangerous items, broken bottles or prams)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **There is a lack of food or food is inadequate (e.g. little or no food in the cupboards)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Inadequate seating, furnishing, curtains or floor covering (e.g. no chairs or tables, no curtains or curtains always closed)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

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| --- |
| 1. **Toys are unavailable for the children (e.g. little evidence of appropriate toys or play items/equipment for the children)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Bedding is unsuitable (e.g. no beds, mattresses or appropriate bed clothes on the children’s beds)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Unsuitable hygiene regarding drug paraphernalia (e.g. exposed needles, other drug paraphernalia visible in the house and/or within children’s reach)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Rodents or rodent damage to the property**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **House hazardous to children (e.g. broken electrical sockets, no smoke alarms, lack of safety gates or fire guards)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Basic services unavailable in the house (e.g. water, electricity, gas or heating)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **House is cluttered (e.g. extreme clutter or hoarding, binbags or clothing or toys left everywhere, lack of space to play)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Hazardous pets present in the house (e.g. aggressive or threatening animals or numbers of animals in the house)**
 |
| **Notes:** | Issue does not exist |[ ]  0 |
|  | Exists to some extent |[ ]  1 |
|  | Noticeable / has some impact |[ ]  2 |
|  | Very apparent / serious impact |[ ]  3 |
|  |  |
|  | **Flag for attention:** |[ ]
|  |  |  |

**Scoring**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Score** |  |
|  |  |
| **Number of items where score is 3** |  |
|  |  |
| **Please list the number of flagged items requiring attention** |  |

**Decisions**

**Please record your decisions after completing the Home Conditions Assessment. Areas scored 3 are ‘very apparent/serious impact’. If these indicate a safeguarding concern, Child Protection Procedures must be followed. This should be discussed with your supervisor.**

|  |
| --- |
|[ ]  I am very concerned about the impact of the home conditions on the child |
|[ ]  I have some concerns about the impact of the home conditions on the child |
|[ ]  I have no concerns about the impact of the home conditions on the child |

|  |
| --- |
| **Tasks for the Family/Agency** |
| Family/Agency to work on the following flagged items/tasks before the next visit (please clarify item numbers and tasks below) |[ ]
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Further action arising from this assessment** |
| Choose one or more of the following options: |
| Child Protection Concerns, follow Child Protection procedures |[ ]
| Undertake single agency work with the family (e.g. Family Outcomes Star) |[ ]
| Not appropriate for this agency – refer to another agency |[ ]
| No further action |[ ]
|  |
| Arrange a further visit to monitor progress | Planned Visit |[ ]
|  | Unplanned Visit |[ ]

**Consent**

**For sharing information or referral to another agency the consent of the child/parent is usually required. Please confirm whether the consent of the child/parent has been obtained.**

|  |
| --- |
| I have obtained consent to share information/refer to another agency |[ ]
| I do not have consent to share information/refer with another agency but have Child Protection concerns and obtaining consent may harm the child  |[ ]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parent Signature(s)** |  |
| **Worker’s Signature** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Manager’s Comments** |
|  |
| **Manager’s Signature** |  |