

3. Before a placement

Carer profile/Welcome book

This can be used to help prepare the child for the placement.

Journal

What to record:

- injuries – bumps, scrapes, bruises
- any disclosures the children make (to be passed onto the caseworker)
- children's behaviour
- communication with professionals etc.
- time with family
- list of items the child arrived with and items bought with establishment payments

Mattress protectors and spare bed clothes

It's really common for children to wet the bed when they first arrive, even those who are usually night trained. Make sure you have a few waterproof mattress protectors and spare bedding. Remember if the children are wetting the bed every night you may need more than a couple of sets.

Toys and activities

It's also important that you have a range of age-appropriate toys and activities in your home before the children come. This will help make them feel welcome and give them something to do. They don't need to be new or expensive, but do make sure they are clean and in good working order.