

Guide to support Foster Carers with decision making regarding a Ready Response Placement

This guide has been created to assist Foster Carers to make decisions after-hours if a placement request from Child Safety is suitable for their household. There are nine areas for Carers to consider when discussing placement needs.

1. HOUSEHOLD READINESS

- Is my household settled at the moment and ready to accept the placement of another child/young person (YP)?
- Does my household have any plans or events over the next seven days that would be difficult to add another child/YP into?
- Do I or one of my adult household members have an expired Blue Card?
- Do we have any friends/family members coming to stay in our home over the next seven days? Do these people have Blue Cards?
- Do I have space in my car and restraints for the child/YP?
- Would this placement impact our ability to provide our regular respite/short break arrangements?

2. CHILD/ YOUNG PERSON DETAILS

- Child/YP's name.
- Date of birth.
- Cultural details for child/YP.
- What Region does the child/YP live in?
- Is the child/YP new into care or is this a placement ending? Why do they need this placement now?
- What is the child/YP's swimming ability?

3. CHILD/YOUNG PERSON'S HEALTH

- Do they have any illnesses or health matters I need to know about? E.g., cold/flu, head lice, hand, foot and mouth, Covid, etc.
- Do they have any injuries that I need to know about? E.g., bruising, broken bones, burns, etc.
- Do these illnesses or injuries require medical follow up whilst placed in my care?
- Do they have any medical or counselling appointments in the next seven days?
- Do they have any medical conditions or disability diagnosis? If yes, what are they?
- Do they take medication? If yes, what is it and what is it for? Is it being provided at time of placement?
- Do they have any allergies? If yes, how are they treated? E.g., gluten free diet, EpiPen, etc.

- What is the child/YP's Medicare Number?

4. CHILD/YOUNG PERSON'S TRAUMA RELATED BEHAVIOURS

- What behaviours do they show when unsettled/upset?
- How do I support them when they are unsettled/upset?
- Do they exhibit any behaviours that present a risk to the people or animals in our home? E.g., aggressive behaviours, sexually reactive behaviours, etc. If yes, how do I manage this?
- Do they exhibit any behaviours that present a risk to themselves? E.g., self-harming behaviours, running when feeling threatened, are they climbers?
- If yes, how do I manage this?

5. FAMILY DETAILS

- Is there any known risk from their family? If yes, how do I manage this risk? E.g., don't shop at local shopping centre.
- Will my details be given to child/YP's family?
- Are there family contact arrangements over the next seven days?

6. CHILD/YOUNG PERSON'S ROUTINE/LIKES/DISLIKES

- What school/childcare centre do they attend? Hours of attendance?
- Do they attend out of hours care or vacation care? Can it be organised if required?
- Dietary requirements? E.g., cultural/religious or allergy/intolerance.
- What foods do they like and dislike?
- What formula and nappies do they use?
- What is their bedtime routine? E.g., bedtime story, night light, music to help them settle, etc.
- Do they have any extra-curricular activities planned over the next seven days?

7. FINAL POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Who is to provide transport to and from school/child care?
- Who is to provide transport for family contact?
- Who is to provide transport and funding for medical needs or extra-curricular activities?

8. IF ACCEPTING THE PLACEMENT

- How long are you offering this placement for?
- What supports do you need and has Child Safety agreed to them?
- How will the child/YP get to your home?
- How is the child/YP feeling and presenting? Are they hungry, tired, etc?

- Are they coming with clothing, possessions, etc?

9. UPON ACCEPTANCE OF CHILD/YP

- 1) **Request** Authority to Care (ATC) form.
- 2) **Ring** the LWB After-Hours Service on 1800 861 826 immediately to advise them that you have accepted a ready response placement, to ensure you are able to receive timely support from LWB should you need it.
- 3) **Email** your CFP and Program Manager to advise them that you have accepted a ready response placement.