

Child Safety in Shelters Checklist

Assessment of children's needs

- How many children are staying in the shelter (if available, what are their ages)?
- Are there unaccompanied or separated children, or children at higher risk?
- Are nutritious, age-appropriate meals and snacks available for children and for infants?
- Are age appropriate activities available for children in the shelter?
- Are children able to access normal programming opportunities (if available: child care, school, after school programs, summer programs)?
- Are children's safety and hygiene needs met?
- Is there a diaper changing area? Is there appropriate sanitation and proper disposal?
- Are there sufficient diapers, wipes, bathing supplies, etc.?
- Are there safe sleeping areas for children? (physically safe sleeping materials and free of high-risk residents?)
- Are there appropriate disease prevention techniques in place?
 - Handwashing is encouraged; soap is available; adequate number of sinks, etc.
 - Shelter is cleaned regularly, bathrooms are sanitary as possible, garbage is emptied
 - Flu prevention, handwashing tips are posted
- Assess Bathroom/Facility Access and Safety
 - Do family sleeping areas and children's areas have direct access to bathrooms?
 - Are there security officials or shelter staff monitoring bathroom activity to reduce the risk of inappropriate activity in restrooms?
 - Are bathroom and other areas well lit (inside and outside)?
- Is there a private area for women who are breast feeding?
- Is there a quiet area for expecting mothers to rest?

- Is the Evacuation Center screening and separating convicted sex offenders?
- Is the Evacuation Center screening all entrants and people exiting?
- Are there systems in place to report unlawful acts against children?
- Are children's mental health needs being addressed?