

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 0 - 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 most 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.

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.

Developed:

This has been developed by Bruce Thornton (www.bruce-thornton.info) and Dafydd Paul and Nia Price (Gwynedd Children's Services).

Original source:

Adapted and developed from: Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales - The Stationary Office

How long?

About 45 minutes if completed with the parents

Further guidance?

Yes

Child's Name		Date of Birth		Age	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unannounced	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please confirm whether the Home Conditions was undertaken jointly with the parent (or family/carers etc.).	With family	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Without family	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.*

Scale

1 Strong odour (e.g. smell of mould or rotten food or urine etc.)	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
			

Notes:	Flag for attention:	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Kitchen floor is dirty (e.g. covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces etc.)	Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
			

Notes:	Flag for attention:	<input type="checkbox"/>

3

Floor is dirty in other rooms (e.g. covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces etc.)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

4

General decorative order is poor? (e.g. obviously in need of attention, stained or damaged walls, broken doors or windows)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

5

Kitchen sink, draining board, work surface, cooker, fridge or cupboard doors are dirty



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

6

Cooking implements, cutlery or crockery dirty (e.g. showing ingrained dirt and or these items remain unwashed until they are needed again)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

7 Toilet, bath or basin dirty? (e.g. stained, broken or showing ingrained dirt)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

8 Beds, furnishings or furniture dirty? (e.g. broken or stained)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

9 Parent's or children's clothing dirty? (e.g. unwashed, smelling or hair dirty or matted)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

10 General appearance of house, garden or yard is poor (e.g. uncared for, strewn with rubbish, containing dangerous items, broken bottles or prams)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

11 There is a lack of food or food is inadequate (e.g. none or little food in cupboards or home)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

12 Inadequate seating, furnishing, curtains or floor covering (e.g. no chairs or tables, no curtains or curtains always closed)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

13 Toys are available for the children (e.g. little evidence of toys or play items/equipment for the children)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

14 Bedding is unsuitable (e.g. no beds, mattresses or appropriate bed clothes on the children's beds)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

15

Unsuitable hygiene regarding drug paraphernalia (e.g. exposed needles, other drug paraphernalia visible in the house and/or within children's reach)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

16

Are there rodents or rodent damage to the property



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

17

House hazardous to children (e.g. broken electrical sockets, no smoke alarms, lack of safety gates or fire guards)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

18

Are there basic services available in the house (e.g. water, electricity, gas or heating)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

19 House is cluttered (e.g. extreme clutter or hoarding, bin bags or clothing or toys left everywhere, lack of space to play)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

20 There are pets present in the house, are they hazardous? (e.g. aggressive or threatening animals or numbers of animals in the house)



Issue does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
Exists to some extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Noticeable has some impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Very apparent/serious impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	3

Notes:

Flag for attention:

Total score	
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Number of items where score is 3	
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Please list the number of the flagged items requiring attention	
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Additional Information (Please provide any relevant further information about the visit. Please record any improvement and achievements as well as areas that remain a concern).

Decisions

- 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

Family to work on the following flagged items/tasks before the next visit.
(please clarify item numbers and tasks below)

Other Actions *(Please list any actions to be taken following this assessment)*

- Arrange a further assessment with the family (e.g. CAF, TAF Assessment, Risk Assessment)
- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Arrange a further visit to monitor progress | Planned Visit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Unplanned Visit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Refer to Children and Young People's Services

Consent *(if you wish to share information with another agency)*

To share information or refer to another agency, the consent of the child/parent is required, unless there are Child Protection concerns and obtaining consent may harm the child.

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

Parent(s) signature	
Worker's signature	