

## Attachment A to CF-FSP 5226

### Safety Policies:

1. Swimming pools must have a barrier on all four sides of at least four feet. The barrier may consist of a house plus a fence on the remaining three sides or a four-sided fence. All access through the barrier must have one of the following safety features: alarm, key lock, self-locking doors or a bolt lock that is not accessible to children. When the swimming pool is not in use, all entry points must be locked. Above ground pools must have steps or ladders leading to it secured, locked, or removed when the pool is not in use. Hot tubs and spas shall be required to have a safety cover that is locked when not in use. Swimming pools must be equipped with one of the following life saving devices:
  - (1) Ring buoy;
  - (2) Rescue tube; or,
  - (3) Other appropriate flotation device with a rope attached which is sufficient length to cover the area.
2. All medications, poisonous chemicals, and cleaning materials must be in a locked place and inaccessible to children.
3. Alcoholic beverages should be stored out of the reach of small children. To avoid access to alcoholic beverages by older children, it is recommended that these beverages be kept in a locked place.
4. If the substitute care parents own a gun, the ammunition and unloaded firearm must be kept separately in locked cabinets.
5. Pets in the home must be vaccinated and their vaccinations must be current.
6. The home must be safe from fire hazards. All combustible items must be stored away from sources of heat. The home must not be heated by unvented gas.
7. All fireplaces, space heaters, steam radiators, and hot surfaces must be shielded against accidental contact. The substitute care parents must have an evacuation plan posted in a conspicuous place and must share it with each child. The substitute care parents must conduct periodic fire drills to make sure all the children understand the procedures. Fire drills should be held at least every six months. The date of the fire drill should be recorded and reviewed at the time of relicensure.
8. If the home is equipped with burglar bars, the caregiver must demonstrate that:
  - (a) The burglar bars can be released to allow exit; or,
  - (b) That other means of exit are readily available from each sleeping area.
9. Substitute parents must have transportation available 24 hours a day. All vehicles used to transport children must be in safe condition, in compliance with applicable motor vehicle laws of the state, and equipped with seat belts and approved car seats for children under the age of four years.

### Discipline Policies:

1. The foster parents must discipline children with kindness, consistency, and understanding, and with the purpose of helping the child develop responsibility with self-control.
2. The foster parents must help each child learn that he/she is responsible for his/her behavior by teaching him the natural and learned consequences of his/her behaviors.

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3. Foster parents must use positive methods of discipline, including the following:
  - (I) Rewarding/praising acceptable behavior;
  - (II) Verbal disappointment of the child's behavior;
  - (III) Loss of privilege(s);
  - (IV) Grounding, restricting the child to the house or yard, or sending the child out of the room and away from the family activity; and,
  - (V) Redirecting the child's activity, for example, if a child is playing with a sharp object take the object away, and replace it with a safe toy.
4. The foster parents must not allow children in care to be subjected to verbal abuse, derogatory remarks about themselves and family members.
5. The foster parents must not subject children to cruel, severe, humiliating or unusual punishment, for example, to use soap to wash out the mouth, eating hot sauces or pepper, placing in hot water, kneeling on stones, etc.
6. The foster parents must not use corporal punishment of any kind.
7. The foster parent must not delegate discipline of a foster child to another child or to an adult not known to the child.
8. The foster parents must not withhold meals, clothing, or shelter as a form of punishment.
9. The foster parents must not punish children for bed-wetting or errors that occur during the toilet training process.
10. The foster parents must not resist implementation of the case plan as punishment for misdeeds of a child.
11. The foster parents must not deny a child contact or visits with his family as punishment.
12. Foster parents may assign additional routine home chores as the consequence of misbehavior, although these chores must not involve physical exercise so excessive as to endanger the child's health, or so extensive as to interfere with time set aside for school work, sleeping, or eating.
13. The foster parent(s) must not threaten a child with removal from the home or with a report to authorities as punishment for behavior. Threatening the child with removal plays into the child's conviction that they are doomed to a series of placements and rejections. The Family Services counselor's task is to identify the child's specific behaviors which are causing the substitute parent to request the child's removal. Once problems are identified, the Family Services counselor along with the substitute parents and child assess ways to correct the problem. If problems are not corrected and the substitute family continues to request removal, a conference should be held by the Family Services counselor with the substitute family and child to discuss the possibility of removal and replacement. Involving the child in the planning may help him/her feel he/she has some control of his/her life.