



The Neglected Transition

C.A.R.E. CHECKLIST

Communicate. Affirm. Recognize. Ensure.

1. C.A.R.E. for Children's Foster Care Notification	Y/N
Is someone with whom the child is familiar present when the child is being notified they are being placed into foster care?	
Have you introduced yourself to the child and explained who you are?	
Have you been sensitive to the child's feelings and provided an opportunity for the child to ask questions?	
2. C.A.R.E. for Children's Belongings	Y/N
Have you asked the child if there is anything that is important to them in the home that they would like to bring with them?	
(If applicable) Have you explained to the child why certain belongings of importance are not able to be transferred with them to their foster care placement?	
3. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Placement Reason Ambiguity	Y/N
Have you told the child why they have been placed into foster care, in an age-appropriate manner?	
Have you provided the child with an opportunity to ask any clarifying questions about why they have been placed into foster care?	
Have you told the child that they are not to blame for being placed into foster care?	
4. C.A.R.E. for Children's Preference for Parental Accompaniment	Y/N
Have you taken into consideration the child's feelings about the presence/absence of their family members during their placement into foster care?	
(If applicable) Have you told the child why their parents cannot accompany them to the foster care placement?	
(If applicable) Have you offered the child an opportunity to bring a personal belonging that reminds them of their loved ones?	

5. C.A.R.E. for Family Processing Time	Y/N
(If safe to do so) Have you provided the child with an opportunity to spend time with their family after receiving the notice that they are being removed from their home and before they are actually removed from the home?	
Have you given the child and family guidance regarding how to process the child's need to be removed from the home and efforts that will be made to keep the family relationships intact?	
6. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of the Home Transfer	Y/N
Have you provided the child with sensitivity, compassion, and support while being transferred from the original home to the foster care placement?	
(If applicable and when possible) Have you asked the police officer, if at all possible, to arrive in citizen's attire?	
(If applicable) Have you inquired if a youth advocate has been assigned to the child during their transfer to their foster care placement?	
7. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Structural Ambiguity	Y/N
Have you provided the child with information about the foster care system and its purpose?	
Have you advised the child that efforts will be made for them to see their family again?	
8. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of the Placement Route and Process	Y/N
Have you told the child where they are going and if there will be any location stops prior to their arrival to the foster care placement?	
If the child is being brought to a child welfare agency or other non-residential institution, have you notified the child that this is not where they will be residing?	
9. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Family Threat	Y/N
Have you advised the child about how their relationships with loved ones will be maintained?	
10. C.A.R.E. for Children's Basic Needs	Y/N
Have you advised the child that their basic needs will be met and how these needs will be met?	
Have you advised the child about which adults are responsible for meeting their needs and whom to ask questions about their needs being met?	
Have you provided the child with the opportunity to speak with a counselor or therapist about any concerns, fears, or emotions they may be experiencing?	

11. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of School Threat	Y/N
Have all efforts been made to refrain from removing the child from their school?	
(If applicable) Have you notified the child that they have to attend a new school? Have efforts been made to maintain the child's relationships with peers and other individuals of importance at their former school?	
12. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Foster Care Benefits	Y/N
Have you informed the child of the benefits of foster care?	
13. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Placement Context Ambiguity	Y/N
Have you provided the child with a Care Entry package?/Have you provided the child with information about their foster care residence and the people residing in the home?	
14. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Pets	Y/N
Have you advised the child if there are pets at the home where they will be living?	
Have you taken into consideration the child's feelings about pets when preparing them for their foster care placement?	
(If applicable) Have you addressed and attended to the child's potential fears about the home or the people/pets with whom they will be residing?	
15. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of their Home Environment	Y/N
Have you introduced yourself to the child and welcomed them to the home?	
Have you provided the child with a tour of the foster care placement?	
Have you provided the child with an opportunity to ask questions about the home?	
Have you invited the child to "personalize" their room in some manner?	
16. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Household Rules	Y/N
Have you advised the child about the household rules and the purpose for each rule?	
Have you invited the child to co-create some of the household rules?	
Have you invited the child to ask questions about the rules and household expectations?	

17. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Foster Placement Adjustment	Y/N
Have you offered the child support in adjusting to their new environment?	
Have you provided the child with some time to adjust to their new environment before tasks and/or chores have been assigned to them?	
Have you invited the child to express what might assist them with adjusting to the home?	
18. C.A.R.E. for Sibling Connections in the Home	Y/N
(If applicable) Have you asked the child about their preferences about sharing a room with their sibling?	
(If applicable) Have you advised the child why they cannot share a room with their sibling?	
19. C.A.R.E. for a Relational Foundation of Security, Safety, and Trust	Y/N
Have you provided a safe and secure physical environment?	
Have you invited the child to share feedback about what changes could be made in the home environment to assist them with feeling more secure and safe?	
20. C.A.R.E. for a Welcoming Home Atmosphere	Y/N
Have you provided a warm welcome to the child?	
Have you advised the child that you are available to them at any time and are open to receiving questions and feedback from the child?	
21. C.A.R.E. for Equal Treatment of Children in the Home	Y/N
(If applicable) Do you treat the child equally to other children who are residing in the home?	
(If applicable) Have you provided the child with opportunities to express if they believe that there is unfair treatment between children in the home?	
(If applicable) Have you acknowledged and attended to the child's concerns about parental favoritism in a considerate, compassionate, and non-defensive manner?	
22. C.A.R.E. for Respectful Communication	Y/N
Do you communicate with the child in a respectful and non-condescending manner?	

23. C.A.R.E. for Constant Love and Support	Y/N
Do you frequently invite the child to speak about their needs, concerns, interests, and feelings?	
24. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Role Ambiguity	Y/N
Have you asked the child about their perceptions of family roles, prior to and after entering foster care?	
Have you invited the child to discuss their feelings about any roles that they no longer performs/is unable to perform?	
Have you provided the child with opportunities to preserve healthy roles that are important to them?	
25. C.A.R.E. for Children's Interests and Commitments	Y/N
Have you asked the child about their interests?	
Have you made efforts to identify similar or shared interests with the child?	
Have you encouraged and supported the child in pursuing their interests?	
Have you actively invested in the child's interests?	
26. C.A.R.E. for Children's Friendships	Y/N
Have you provided the child with supports to assist them in maintaining previous friendships?	
Have you assisted the child in establishing new friendships?	
27. C.A.R.E. for Inviting, Involving, and Engaging Children in Decision-Making Opportunities	Y/N
Have you invited, involved, and engaged the child in decision-making that could affect them?	
28. C.A.R.E. for Children's Spiritual Beliefs	Y/N
Have you invited the child to openly discuss their spiritual beliefs?	
Have you made efforts to encourage and support the child in practicing and exploring their spiritual beliefs?	

29. C.A.R.E. for Children's Feelings	Y/N
Have you advised the child that their feelings are important and that you are available to listen to them when they would like to express these feelings?	
Have you provided the child with opportunities to express their feelings?	
(If applicable) Does the child have a therapist with whom they can speak when they are emotionally distressed?	
Does the child have an adequate social support network which they can draw from when they need someone to speak with?	
30. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Temporal Ambiguity	Y/N
Have you provided the child with open and honest communication regarding the length of time they will be placed in foster care?	
(If applicable) Have you given the child opportunities to explain and discuss their feelings about the uncertainty of the length of time they will be in foster care	
31. C.A.R.E. for Children's Experiences of Ambiguous Loss	Y/N
Have you invited the child to identify and discuss the losses that they are experiencing?	
Have you provided the child with opportunities to explore how they make meaning of their current situation and losses?	
Have you invited the child to discuss how they are feeling about the losses they are experiencing?	
Have your made efforts to understand and attend to the child's losses, grief, and the effects these losses are having on them?	
(If applicable) Have you advised/reminded the child that efforts are being made to reunify them with their family?	
Have you advised/reminded the child that they are valued, significant, and has purpose in this world?	

32. C.A.R.E. for Family Visitations	Y/N
(If applicable) Have you notified the child that they will have visitations with their family members, including who they will visit, how often they will have visits, and when and where they will have visits?	
If the child is not permitted to have visitations with people of importance to them, have you advised the child of the reason for this decision?	
(If applicable) Have you asked the child if they would like to have visitations with their parents alone as well as with shared visits with siblings?	
33. C.A.R.E. for Children's Healing and Coping Processes	Y/N
Have you acknowledged and validated the child's experiences of loss and grief?	
Have you encouraged, supported, and nurtured the child's healthy coping responses?	
Have you provided the child with opportunities to engage in healthy activities that can maintain connections with loved ones who are physically absent yet psychologically present?	
34. C.A.R.E. for the Healing Properties of Time	Y/N
Have you encouraged and supported the child daily and reminded them to take each day one step at a time?	