

Physical. Educational. Emotional. Medical.

Neglect.



**Halton Home Conditions
Assessment Tool**



HALTON HOME CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT TOOL

Developed from DOH Home Conditions Assessment references cited by DOH: Davie CE, Hutt SJ, Vincent E & Mason M (1984) *The young child at home*. NFER Nelson, Windsor

Background

The purpose of this tool is to support practitioners to assess the physical environment in which a child is living.

The use of a list helps with the objectivity of observation and supports the practitioner to think about the impact on the individual children within the home. For example an open bottle of bleach in the bathroom will pose different levels of risk for a toddler and a teenager.

Once completed you will need to calculate the total score. The scoring outcomes have been found to correlate highly with children's abilities. Children from homes with low scores usually have better language and intellectual development. This does not mean that all children from high scoring homes will have poor intellectual progress.

In order to be able to complete the tool it is necessary to look over the home. The caregiver can be asked whether they have any problems with their housing, or whether the nature of their accommodation causes difficulties from the point of view of bringing up the children. This can lead naturally to a request to look round. The tool can be completed with the parent or the practitioner can use after the visit to support their recordings and analysis of what they have observed in the home.

The tool helps to prioritise areas to target support and provides a baseline for home conditions on which improvement can be measured. It can also support supervision or referral discussion – the practitioner can state that they completed the tool and the outcome was a score of 9; as the tool is used across the partnership there will be a shared understanding that this would indicate very poor home conditions.

Date:

Name and Agency of practitioner completing the tool:

Was the visit announced or unannounced:

Who was home?

Who did you complete the tool with?

		Additional comments/likely impact on the child(ren) residing in the home	Score 0 or 1 please state if not observed
1.	Smell (e.g. stale cigarette smoke, rotting food)		
2.	Floors soiled, covered in bits, crumbs etc.		
3.	Drug paraphernalia evident within the home and/or prescribed medications are not safely stored		
4.	General decorative order poor – obviously in need of attention (e.g. badly stained wall paper, broken windows, holes in walls/doors).		
5.	There are a lack of toys or the home is cluttered with many broken toys and/or toys are not age appropriate		
6.	Kitchen sink, draining board, work surfaces or cupboard door have not been washed for a considerable period of time		
7.	Evidence of rodents in the home		
8.	Surfaces in the house have not been dusted for a considerable period of time		
9.	Cooking implements, cutlery or crockery showing ingrained dirt and/or these items remain unwashed until they are needed again		
10.	Lavatory, bath or basin showing ingrained dirt		
11.	Furnishings or furniture soiled or broken		
12.	Carer's or children's, clothing clearly unwashed, or hair matted and unbrushed		
13.	Bedding unclean or not provided		
14.	Garden or yard uncared for and strewn with rubbish		
15.	The home does not have electricity and/or heating and or hot water		

Overall summary of the likely impact on the child of home conditions.

Planned next steps

Completed tool shared with primary carers?

Their views if applicable

Completed tool shared with the child?

Their views if applicable