

School-Age Arrival

Child's name _____ Date of placement _____ Age / grade _____

1 To purchase or have on hand

Comfort first – then school logistics.

BEDROOM & COMFORT

- Bed, fresh sheets, pillow, blanket
- Comforting item – stuffed animal, soft throw, nightlight
- Hamper, drawers, or bins for their own space
- Small lamp / light source they control

HYGIENE & CARE

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss
- Brush / comb appropriate for their hair type
- Shampoo, conditioner, body wash (ask about sensitivities)
- Towel & washcloth – their own

CLOTHING

- Basic outfits in their size (3-5 days worth)
- Pajamas, socks, underwear (new, in package)
- Shoes that fit, weather-appropriate jacket
- A "first day" outfit they get to pick from options

FOOD & ACTIVITY

- A few favorite snacks (ask agency or the child)
- Lunchbox & water bottle
- Books, puzzles, coloring, age-appropriate activities
- School supplies starter (paper, pencils, folder, backpack)

2 To do

In the first 72 hours and first week.

- Request school enrollment / transfer documents from the caseworker.
- Confirm IEP or 504 plan status; request a copy.
- Schedule a baseline well-child visit and dental appointment.
- Tour their bedroom & the house with the child – show them their drawer, their bathroom, the fridge.
- Ask about food preferences and dislikes; stock 2-3 safe meals.
- Ask about religious or cultural practices that should continue.
- Set up a simple chart of the week so they can see what's coming.
- Introduce house pets gradually and on the child's terms.
- Establish house rules calmly – pick 3 to start, save the rest for week 2.
- Photograph child on arrival for the case record.