



Foster Care Bag Check List

The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center provides foster care bags to children and adolescents being removed from their homes due to abuse/neglect. The bags are intended to provide immediate emergency assistance to children in transition.

Each bag should be prepared for a child of a particular size and gender (e.g., size 6x girl or size 14 boy) and labeled accordingly on the outside of the bag with a removable tag.

Foster care "bags" may be large backpacks, rolling child suitcases or duffle bags and should be new or in very good condition.

At a minimum, each bag should contain the following items:

- Two (2) complete seasonally appropriate, stylishly hip, but age-appropriate, modest outfits (for fall/winter: pants and long-sleeved shirts; for spring/summer: shorts/skorts and short sleeve tops)
- One or two (1 – 2) packs of panties or underwear (must be in plastic wrap)
- One (1) pack of undershirts/cotton kids camisoles or bras depending on the age, gender and size of the child
- Two (2) pairs of socks
- One (1) set of pajamas
- A complete set of toiletries, including soap (such as Dove, Tone, Caress, Jergens – no deodorant soaps or Ivory, please), body lotion, Vaseline, a wide-tooth comb, a bristle hairbrush, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo for dry/curly hair and conditioner for dry/curly hair, and hair dressing oil (such as TCB, Royal Crown, Vitapointe, Blue Magic). Ideally, liquid items should be placed in ziplock bags to prevent spillage onto the clothing.

Please keep in mind that the majority of children who receive these bags are African American. While there are variations in need from child to child, products made for African American skin and hair, which tend to be categorized as dry by product makers, are the most useful.

Optional items to include are age-appropriate books, toys, or stuffed animals

Please contact 202-638-2575, ext. 100, to arrange for drop off of donations.

THANK YOU for helping a child in need!

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To report suspected child abuse in the District of Columbia call 202.671.SAFE