



Family Mentor Project

Checklist for Community Living

Home visits are the most important step you will take. You should plan to visit at least two or three homes. By doing this, you will have the opportunity to see differences in how homes are run. This may help you form a better idea of the locations, structure and supports that will work best for you or your loved one.

Here is a helpful list of things to consider on your visits:

At first glance:

- Does the outside of the home look nice and kept?
- Does the inside look and feel comfortable to you?
- Is there a nice variety of things to do in the home?
- Are there things happening in the home?
- Are activities encouraged and supported?

Staff and housemates:

- How do staff and housemates interact?
- Does everyone seem to respect and like each other?

What's on the menu:

- What kind of food is available and who picks it?
- Are choices encouraged and available?
- Are diets supervised?

Bedrooms:

- Does each person have his or her own bedroom?
- Can each person individually decorate the bedroom?

Getting out of the house:

- Is there convenient access to restaurants, shops, parks and other community settings?
- How are community activities determined and supported?
- Is there personal choice in community activities (e.g. going to a movie, visiting friends/family)?
- If you or your loved one had a job or volunteers, how does the house support that?
- How is transportation handled?

Personal Care:

- Is there evidence that personal hygiene and good grooming are in place?
- Are clothing and bedding laundered separately and well maintained?
- How many staff are working in the house and what is the shift change schedule?
- What is the staff turnover rate at the home and how often does staff change?