

FIRST WEEK'S CHECKLIST

Providing clear directions and expectations concerning household routines will go a long way in creating a positive homestay experience for the student as well as the family. Please use the first week after the student's arrival to have a full family meeting and complete the following :

- Give student a tour of the house and the neighbourhood.
- Explain to the student the house rules regarding:
 - meal times;
 - where food can and cannot be eaten;
 - if tap water is safe to drink;
 - recycling practices;
 - laundry;
 - showers/bathing;
 - curfews and;
 - Internet use.
- Explain your policy on shoes in the house. In Spain, individuals leave their shoes on in the house, so for a student that has never lived away from home, the rule to take shoes off when entering a home may be foreign.
- Discuss expectations regarding daily chores (tidying up after themselves, putting dishes in the dishwasher, etc.). These chores should be age-acceptable. Expectations should not surpass what you would expect of your own children.
- Show student how to use appliances and entertainment, like dishwasher, TV, microwave, computer, security system, etc. Have the student practice with you.
- Outline your family's expectations regarding the preparation of breakfasts and lunches. If you expect the student to prepare their own breakfast and lunch on school days, please show the student where to get the ingredients and how to prepare and package (if applicable) the meals. **Students in Spain generally don't prepare their own meals**, so your help will be appreciated.
- Take student grocery shopping so that they could pick out things they like to eat to get familiar with their preferences and for you to be able to purchase them in the future.
- Help student set up the phone with Canadian number (if applicable).
- Explain how 9-1-1 works for emergencies, as it is different from Spain.
- Tell student what to do in case of fire.

- Provide student with a list of contacts, such as your home, cell, and work numbers and agree on a communication strategy. Some individuals prefer WhatsApp, others texts, while others prefer calls. It is necessary to establish how you prefer to be reached so as to ensure that no attempt at communication is left unnoticed.
- Show student where the nearest bus stop and community facilities are.
- Discuss things to do during the first few days and weeks. Suggesting some fun family-oriented activities could be a great way to break the ice and build an initial bond.
- Show girls where to buy personal supplies.
- Take student to and from orientation session (refer to section 7.3 of the Host Guide for further information).
- Show student how to get to and from school. If the student will require to take public transportation to commute to and from school, you must show the route by going with the student on the bus, both ways. If the student can walk to school, please walk with the student to show them the route.
- If applicable, take student to and from activities organized by the international student program, or show them how to commute.
- If applicable, help the student purchase a public transportation pass. Go Canada will let you know in advance if the student you will be hosting qualifies to obtain a costless transportation pass from his or her school.