

Version 2.0

ON-BOARDING:

READY, SET, GO!

THE FIRST WEEKEND: TIPS FOR THE TEAM PARENT

Welcome! The Caregiver / Au Pair will need the Team Parent to help her to become familiar with her new family and surroundings.
Introduce her to each family member.
Take the Caregiver / Au Pair on a tour of the home.
Allow her to adjust and encourage low-key bonding time with the children (set up a game or activity that you all can play)
Plan a fun activity in the area to help the Caregiver / Au Pair to feel welcome, but do not over plan.
Show her around town, but try not to overwhelm her as so much will be new.



THE FIRST WEEK:

ESSENTIAL TASKS TO BE COMPLETED BY TEAM PARENT

Action Steps for the Caregiver / Au Pair	Action Steps for Team Parent
Review the Team Parent Family Handbook. Jot down questions for discussion with Team Parent. Review any Covid concerns	☐ Schedule time to sit down with the Caregiver / Au Pair to review Handbook section by section. Encourage questions.
	 Review any Covid Social Distancing Rules and family rules to ensure safety
Set up mobile phone.	☐ Help with Sim Card and using phone
Set up direct deposit. Become familiar with use of credit card for gas (fuel) and for kids-related matters.	 Set up direct deposit, Venmo app or Google Pay for Caregiver / Au Pair weekly stipend. Credit card – get one for Caregiver / Au Pair,
	review how and when to use card. Set up payroll (if needed)
AU PAIR: Social Security Number needed. Team Parent will assist with details to acquire it.	 AU PAIR: Take to Social Security office and get paperwork completed. AU PAIR: Make sure to get I-94 form
Team Parent may need to enroll you in groups associated with children & facility activities. The Team Parent will help you with this.	 Make sure that the new member of the team is appropriately enrolled in groups or organizations associated with children and family activities (e.g., YMCA).
AU PAIR LEARNING REQUIREMENTS	AU PAIR LEARNING REQUIREMENTS
Community College English Classes	☐ Discuss learning options for English language and other areas of interest
Advanced Learning Institutions – Auditing Classes Research classes that may be of interest and ask	☐ Enroll in classes or activities nearby for the au pair
the LCC for options	☐ Help Caregiver / Au Pair navigate school websites
Look for free English classes at churches or local community centers.	and get signed up for classes (see resources at the end of this document)
Look for what interests you such as sports clubs, volunteering, etc.	☐ Discuss volunteer opportunities such as a pet shelter

Due to COVID restrictions – Search for online courses and consult with LCC if it is a viable option. (https://www.coursera.org/ may have options available from accredited institutions – please check with LCC)	Discuss Covid situation and what it means to your family and the precautions you are taking such as wearing a mask, social distancing, etc.
Discuss vacation plans with Team Parent.	Discuss vacation schedules and if the Caregiver / Au Pair will be joining you as part of her vacation or if she will join the family vacation as a remote working location. Reminder: The Au Pair's 2 weeks off must be mutually agreed upon.
Discuss which day works best to have a discussion regarding the Household and Family Handbook. Plan daily check-in time, weekly meeting dates/time with the parents.	Plan time to discuss Household & Family Handbook Schedule (and stick to) daily check-ins and weekly meetings with the "Team Parent" Pit Crew communication and organizational purposes. Conduct these meetings without the children around.
AUPAIRS: Find out when the monthly LCC meetings are and note them on your calendar.	AUPAIRS: Make sure the Au Pair is available to attend LCC monthly meetings.



THE FIRST WORK WEEK:

EXPECTATIONS FOR DAY 1 (MONDAY) & DAY 2 (TUESDAY)

Expectations of the Caregiver / Au Pair	Expectations of Team Parent
☐ Show up dressed and on time for work.	 Provide the Caregiver / Au Pair with a schedule for the kids.
At the end-of-day check-in meeting with Team Parent, review the schedule for the next day and ask any questions you may have.	 Make time at the end of the Au Pair's work day to answer her questions and to review the plan for the next day.
☐ Follow the Team Parent' lead as they walk you through the schedule.	Once you have lead the Caregiver / Au Pair through a typical day, let her take the lead through a typical daily schedule with you, including explaining options for playing outside of the house, showing you where crafts/projects are, activities schedules and locations (or school drop off / pick-up procedures.)
 Help Team Parent prepare breakfast, lunch and snacks for the kids. 	 Encourage the Caregiver / Au Pair to give you examples of what the kids like to eat, showing you where it is, helping you prepare meals and getting kids to eat.
 Spend time to bond and engage with the children during the day. 	Help the Caregiver / Au Pair to get comfortable getting to know the children.
	 Help the Caregiver / Au Pair with any in-place family systems such as the 'cow' timing system for toy sharing.
	☐ Discuss the discipline and time-out structure.

	Make time to practice driving during your off time, when the kids are not in the car (if still uncomfortable).		Drive with the Caregiver / Au Pair during her off time to make sure she is comfortable driving in her new environment.
	Understand what papers are important in the car.		Check little things like taillights, etc., an envelope in the car with the insurance papers, etc. and explain to the Caregiver / Au Pair what is in the envelope and why. If
_	Get a State driver's license and transfer the international or out-of-State license to Host Family primary residence State.	the envelope to the police officer and doesn't search around for paperwork she is not accus	pulled over, assure that the Caregiver / Au Pair can give the envelope to the police officer and doesn't have to search around for paperwork she is not accustomed to. Good idea to have instructions about what to do if she is in an accident as well.
			Also, add quick directions or addresses she can enter into GPS to places she might frequent such as the kids school, parks, grocery store Don't forget emergency numbers.
	Learn how to use the dishwasher and where children's clean plates / dishes go. Also, learn how to use the washer and dryer and where the children's clothes go.		After showing the Caregiver / Au Pair how to use household appliances and technology, let her take the lead as you helpfully observe. Make sure she is clear regarding schedules of use.
	Follow the Team Parent' lead on accomplishing household chores.		Support the Au Pair's role as the caregiver with the children and encourage them to bond.
	Review Caregiver / Au Pair & Host Family Handbook.		Ask if there are any questions and assure that you have clarified any misunderstandings.
	AU PAIRS: Make sure the LCC calls and welcomes.		AU PAIRS: Make sure the LCC has been contacted within the first 48 hours. This is the '48 hour call' and it is mandatory.

THE FIRST WORK WEEK:

DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY), DAY 4 (THURSDAY) & DAY 5 (FRIDAY)

Expectations of the Au Pair	Expectations of the Team Parent
Show up dressed and on time for work.	The Caregiver / Au Pair provides you with her schedule and a schedule for the kids.
At the daily end-of-day check-in meeting with Team Parent, review the schedule for the next day and ask any questions you have.	Make time at the end of the Au Pair's work day to answer her questions and to review the plan for the next day.
Get out the door on time and proceed with daily activities per the planned and Host Parent approved schedule.	Support the Caregiver / Au Pair as needed to ace the schedule!
Help the Team Parent' to prepare dinner or observe as they show you how to cook a favorite meal for everyone (something you may like to do).	Have the Caregiver / Au Pair show you food safety guidelines from FDA. Have the Caregiver / Au Pair show you her familiarity with your kitchen, including where all the ingredients and kitchen supplies are located.
Bond and engage with the children during the day.	Continue to help the Caregiver / Au Pair get comfortable getting to know the kids.
Learn to use a firm voice when the children disobey.	Provide the Caregiver / Au Pair with a chores list for the children.
Understand the household rules.	Review safety procedures in the parking lot.
Learn to "see through" the children's clever "begging" skills.	Review safety at home and outside.
Use Host Parent systems such as the "cow timing" system for toy sharing.	
Use time out with children as needed.	

Make time to practice driving during your off time when the children are not in the car (especially if you are still uncomfortable) Find your way around your new environment; for example, learn where the nearest gas station is located and how to fuel the car.	Drive with the Caregiver / Au Pair during her off time to make sure she can drive safely (as needed). Show the Caregiver / Au Pair what to look for on the dashboard or windshield fluid (as needed).
Unload the dishwasher and get comfortable asking questions such as where the dishes, utensils are located. Get the children engaged in clean up.	Encourage the Caregiver / Au Pair to show you how kids can help with chores, including pushing in chairs at the table, vacuuming the floor, etc.
Get laundry going for the children; encourage the children to help you collect the laundry. Get the children to pick up their books in their bedroom. Get the children to dress themselves independently and to put their clean laundry	Support the Au Pair's role as the caregiver with the children and encourage them to bond. Teach the Caregiver / Au Pair the laundry system and how she may engage the children in the process.
Review the day at dinner or at the planned end-of-day check in time. Ask questions.	Answer questions as needed.
Friday: Make sure your direct deposit worked.	Friday: Set up direct deposit and make sure it works.
Friday: Make sure you had a successful playdate with other Au Pairs in the area.	Friday: Plan ahead for a playdate. Show the Caregiver / Au Pair how to coordinate a playdate.
During Friday Nap Time, plan a learning theme in your primary language for the following week.	During Friday Nap Time: Help the Caregiver / Au Pair to learn to create a learning theme and work plan for the following week.

WEEK 2 & BEYOND:

EXPECTATIONS OF THE CAREGIVER / AU PAIR & TEAM PARENT

Expectations of the Au Pair	Expectations of the Team Parent
☐ AU PAIRS: Meet the LCC (Do the 2-week orientation meeting with the LCC).	☐ AU PAIRS & LCC: Make sure you are present and actively supportive during the 2-week orientation.
 Review the schedule for the next day and ask questions the night before. 	Make time daily at the end of the Au Pair's work day to answer her questions and to review the plan for the next day.
Make sure you have prepared a plan for the week that represents all planned activities, such as playdates, etc.	☐ Be available to answer questions.
 Plan a learning theme for the week in your primary language if so directed by the Team Parent 	☐ Support the Caregiver / Au Pair in her effort to prepare a weekly theme as needed.
 Execute a daily schedule including preparations (such as kids meals) and activities, as well as next day planning. 	 Assure that the Caregiver / Au Pair is increasingly taking the lead as your support with the children.
 Help kids accomplish their chores (DON'T DO CHORES FOR THEM). 	 Assure the Caregiver / Au Pair is appropriately assertive with the children as they learn to do their chores.
 AU PAIRS: Meet local friends and go out; create a social life! Find activities to do with local friends. 	
 Establish a routine with classes or research based on your interests and what you would like to do 	 Inform the Caregiver / Au Pair regarding available learning and development resources at her disposal.
☐ Follow the Handbook and reference it as needed, especially for car usage, keeping your bedroom clean, keeping car clean, etc.	

If needed, look at local English classes and sign up! (See Welcoming the Stranger https://www.welcomingthestranger.org/cl asses) ☐ Continue to bond with the children; it may take a month but that is OK. (Learn all their "tricks" and try to keep them out of trouble **(** Adhere to daily check-ins and weekly Adhere to daily check-ins and weekly meetings meetings with Team Parent and continue with the Caregiver / Au Pair and continue open open communication. communication. Include discussion of what is going well and what may be improved.

