



Homestay Guidelines WHS International Students

Tips for a Successful Homestay
Experience



Obligations of your Homestay family

- To provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment
- To make you feel like a valued member of their family, not a boarder or a guest
- To provide 3 meals a day

BEDROOM

- ★ Your bedroom is your own. Your host parents may enter, but should ask first
- ★ It is **your** responsibility to keep it tidy and clean
 - Clear of mugs and glasses
 - Change bed linen regularly
 - Empty rubbish bin
 - Vacuum
 - No food
- ★ Open curtains and windows for fresh air



BATHROOM



- ★ Leave the bathroom as you found it
- ★ Be thoughtful of other people - is it a busy time? Is the baby asleep?
- ★ Ask your hosts - when's the best time of day for me to shower?
- ★ Power is expensive in NZ - so we generally advise only **one** shower a day for a maximum of **10 minutes**
- ★ Be thoughtful of hot water - in some homes when all the hot water is used there is no more until tomorrow - **be thoughtful**
- ★ Only paper down the toilet

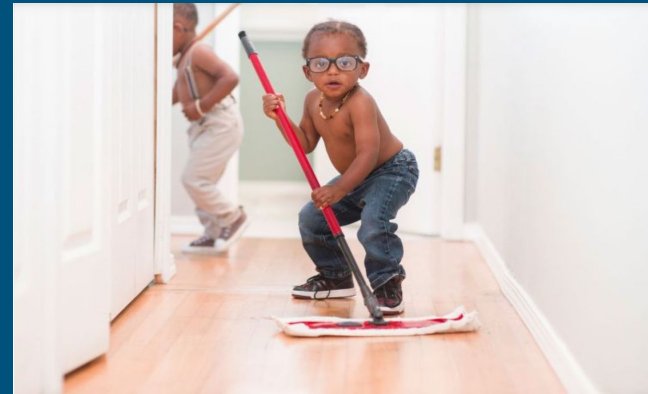
KITCHEN



- ★ Leave the kitchen as you found it
- ★ Don't walk past mess, if you see it, clean it
- ★ Food - your hosts should provide you with 3 meals a day. If you require more snacks, drinks, it's up to you to provide them. Ask your host family where is best to store them
- ★ **Always** offer to help - Can I unload the dishwasher? How can I help with dinner? It's a great way to chat to your family and get to know them more

CHORES

- ★ Kiwi kids (boys and girls) do chores - small jobs around the house to help contribute to the family
- ★ Some typical chores could include:
 - Unloading the dishwasher
 - Taking out the rubbish
 - Cleaning your bathroom
 - Preparing vegetables, the table for dinner
- ★ Ask 'What can I do to help?'
- ★ It's a 'no' to being paid for childcare or dog walking



WINTER

- ★ Houses in NZ are different
- ★ No central heating
- ★ Wear warm clothes and get up and move!
- ★ All heater should be turned off overnight and while you're at school
- ★ Open windows
- ★ Open curtains



Kate's tips for success

- ★ If you have a problem - COMMUNICATE with host parent and then Kate
- ★ MANNERS go a long way - we expect to hear please, thank you, use eye contact, no phones at dinner table - THIS IS NOT A HOTEL.
- ★ OBSERVE what is going on in your homestay. If the family are active, they will expect you to be the same
- ★ BEDTIME in NZ is often early and a time the whole house 'closes down', so not time for showers, loud chats home or gaming
- ★ Do not spend all your time in your room, you are not here for that!
- ★ Consider phone usage, noise, greetings, politeness at all times

Last words of advice...

- ★ This is family life - there will be ups and downs
- ★ Your obligations are to become a member of the family and treat everyone with **respect**.
- ★ **Communication** is key - curfews, dinners, plans
- ★ Don't hesitate to come and chat to me any time
 - POLITE
 - HELP
- ★ **What you put in will be what you get out of the homestay experience**