

## Family Contract

Open, honest, and regular communication are critical factors in ensuring the success of homestay experiences. It is important that all parties share their expectations, set boundaries, and respect established rules. If something is bothering you, it is best to address the issue **immediately**. If an issue is left unaddressed, it will get worse! If addressed early, most issues can be resolved with ease. Open, honest, and regular communication will help everybody in the family until have a happy experience filled with growth, peace, and love.

Creating a family contract with your international student is an important first step when you student arrives. A contract helps everybody understand expectations and communicate about their expectations and feelings. It also helps to ensure the experience is a positive one for all involved.

### Family Values

Prior to your international students' arrival, discuss and write down your family values. When your international student arrives, discuss what each of these values means to your family, how they fit into those family values, and how to uphold those values.

### Promises

Promises are what each party agrees to do as a member of the household and family. These promises encourage respect and open dialogue about rules and expectations. The sample contract contains suggested rules and promises for your family to fill in. Please add details and promises that fit with your family.

### Your Family Contract

Please customize the family contract on page 3 of this document for your family within the first two weeks of your students' arrival. While much of the contract can be filled out ahead of time, this contract should be part of **a whole family discussion**. The contract needs to be read, discussed, and **everybody** (including the international student) needs a chance to contribute to the promises. Think of this discussion as setting a good foundation of communication for the whole family.

## ***Sample Family Contract***

Welcome to our family, Sarah.

Family Values:

1. Love
2. Faith
3. Integrity
4. Respect

We promise to...

1. Schedules
2. Personal belongings
3. Noise
4. Meals
5. Food
6. Computers/internet
7. Church
8. Family devotions
9. Privacy
10. Property
11. Bedrooms
12. Restrooms
13. Laundry room
14. Chores
15. Homework
16. Friends
17. Telephone etiquette (especially important with families several time zones away)
18. Transportation
19. Location/safely
20. Discipline
21. Study hours
22. Lights out/quiet hours
23. Illness/medicine
24. Exercise
25. Vacation schedules
26. Flights

**Signature of all family members:**

**Date:**

## ***Our Family Contract***

Welcome to our family...

Family Values:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

We promise to...

1. Schedules
2. Personal belongings
3. Noise
4. Meals
5. Food
6. Computers/internet
7. Church
8. Family devotions
9. Privacy
10. Property
11. Bedrooms
12. Restrooms
13. Laundry room
14. Chores
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16. Friends
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**Signatures of all family members:**

**Date:**