Home Is Where the Heart Is
Section 1: Keep Your Home Safe

Preventing Falls:
- Keep objects put away.
- Make sure steps are skid-proof.
- Do not leave things on stairs.
- Use night lights in hallways and bathrooms.
- Do not leave things on sidewalks.

Preventing Electrical Problems
- Make sure electrical cords are not cracked.
- Do not leave cords where people could trip.
- Do not use more than one extension cord in an outlet.
- Leave space around the TV and stereo so heat will not build up.
- Keep electrical appliances away from bathtubs and sinks.
- Unplug small electrical appliances and "wall warts" when not being used.
- Cover outlets so small children do not poke things into them.

Preventing Fires
- Put smoke detectors in bathrooms, hallways and attics.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and learn how to use it.
- Keep matches where children cannot reach them.
- Use fireplaces carefully.
- Do not store items near a furnace or water heater.
- Keep oily rags in covered metal containers.

Emergencies
- Keep emergency numbers where you can always find them quickly.
- Plan a home fire escape path and practice it with the family.
- Learn safety procedures for emergencies such as tornadoes, hurricanes, storms and earthquakes.
- Know the safest place in the home when there is an emergency.

THE TRANSITIONS CURRICULUM

Home Is Where the Heart Is
Section 2: Keep Your Home Clean

What does it mean to be clean? Other people may have a different idea about what clean really means. When you plan to live with someone, you need to find out what clean means to them. You also need to share what clean means to you. Even though people may have different ideas about what a clean house is, keeping the home hygenic will prevent disease and other health problems.

How Clean Is Clean?

- **Kitchen:** To keep your kitchen free of bacteria and germs, do the dishes every day. Wipe countertops after cooking. Keep food in proper containers in the cupboard or refrigerator. Change dishcloths, sponges and dishtowels frequently.

- **Bathrooms:** Keep the bathroom clean by wiping sinks and cleaning toilets with a disinfectant cleaner each week. Wipe countertops each day to kill germs that can cause colds and serious illness.

- **Laundry:** Do your laundry each week or as needed.

How Often Do I Clean?

- **Daily Cleaning:** One way to get a handle on cleaning is to do a little bit every day. Wash and put things away as you use them. Wipe off the bathroom and kitchen countertops each day. Hang clothes or put them in a clothes hamper as you take them off.

- **Weekly:** Some cleaning jobs are done each week. This includes dusting furniture, vacuuming carpets, cleaning the bathroom, changing the sheets and doing the laundry.

- **Occasional Cleaning:** Some cleaning jobs are done every few weeks or months. wash the windows three or four times a year. Clean closets one or two times a year. Clean out drawers and cupboards every few months. Rid the house and garage of unwanted items once a year.

- **Who Does the Cleaning:** Everyone in the house can have a job they do every day. These jobs can be switched between people each week. For big jobs, such as cleaning the closets, everyone can work together.

Keeping Things Working and Repaired

- **Maintenance:** Large appliances such as refrigerators, washers and dryers work best if they are serviced each year. Large department stores have service departments. They will do this for a fee or you can purchase a service contract when you buy the appliance.

- **Repair:** When things break, you need to either throw them away or get them fixed. Always get leaks repaired right away because they can cause expensive damage later.

THE TRANSITIONS CURRICULUM

Home Is Where the Heart Is
Section 3: Make Your Home Comfortable

A home can be many things to people. Some people would say a home is a place where we live. But a home is more than that. A home takes care of our physical, emotional and social needs. Our home is where we keep ourselves warm and safe (physical needs). It is where we take care of our feelings (emotional needs). It is a place where we can have a healthy personal and family life (social needs).

Physical Needs

- **Shelter:** A home protects us from weather, including heat, cold and stormy weather.

- **Safety:** A home protects our family and our things from outsiders.

- **Personal Care:** A home is a place where we take care of ourselves and our things.

Emotional Needs

- **Belonging:** Everyone needs a place to belong. Our home is a place where we belong and feel safe and secure. If you feel secure in your home, you will feel more secure outside of your home.

- **Comfort:** A home is a place to relax and be yourself. Your home is a place to have friends over.

- **Self-Confidence:** Having fun and being yourself at home can help you feel more confident.

Social Needs

- **Interacting With Others:** A home should have a place where people can be with each other. Arrange the furniture so that people can get together. This could be a table and chairs or a sofa and chairs.

- **Manners:** You can learn and practice good manners in your home. If you practice your manners with your family you will be more confident when you go other places.

- **Recreation:** Everyone needs to have fun and relax at home. You can have fun doing things by yourself or with others. This could be a sport, playing cards or listening to music. We also need to have a place to relax.

- **Privacy:** Everyone needs to be alone sometimes. It is important to have a place to be alone.

THE TRANSITIONS CURRICULUM

Home Presentation

Follow the steps below to prepare for your individual presentations.

1.   In your large expert group, read your section about homes.

2.   Using the outline below, name the main topic areas from your section.

4.   List two important points under each of the main topic areas.

5.   Use your section of the **Home Poster** to show what your topic is about

6.   Plan what you will say to other students, using the outline and the poster.

Outline

Main Topic 1:

       Point 1:

       Point 2:

Main Topic 2:

       Point 1:

       Point 2:

Main Topic 3:

       Point 1:

       Point 2:

Main Topic 4:

       Point 1

       Point 2:

THE TRANSITIONS CURRICULUM