

CHECKLIST FOR VISITING ELDERLY PARENTS

In general, look for signs of trouble with or changes in thinking skills, vision, and physical activity.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH	YES	NO
Have they lost weight or do they seem more frail?		
Do they have trouble having normal conversations?		
Do you notice any strange new behaviors, like repeating stories or being unusually confused about simple things?		
Are they squinting or tripping over things much more than usual?		
GETTING AROUND	YES	NO
Are their driving skills the same as before? Do you feel safe when they drive you around?		
Are there any unexplained dents or scratches on the car?		
Have you heard about any traffic tickets?		
Do they still do the activities they used to enjoy?		
Are they reluctant to leave the house?		
Are they keeping up with their usual friends and community organizations?		
THE HOUSE	YES	NO
Is the house messier or dirtier than normal?		
Is there a lot of unopened mail? Are unpaid bills lying around?		
Are there broken household items like clogged drains, burned out light bulbs, or broken appliances?		
THE KITCHEN	YES	NO
Is the refrigerator stocked with fresh foods they normally eat?		
Is there moldy or expired food around?		
Are there burned pots and pans? Or burn marks on the floors or counters?		
MEDICATION	YES	NO
Are there any new medications, vitamins, or supplements you haven't seen before?		

Is their medication organized so it's easy to take the correct dose at the correct time?	
Are expired medications mixed up with current ones?	

Notes