

Inspection Top Tips

Planning for a child to come to your home

February 2025



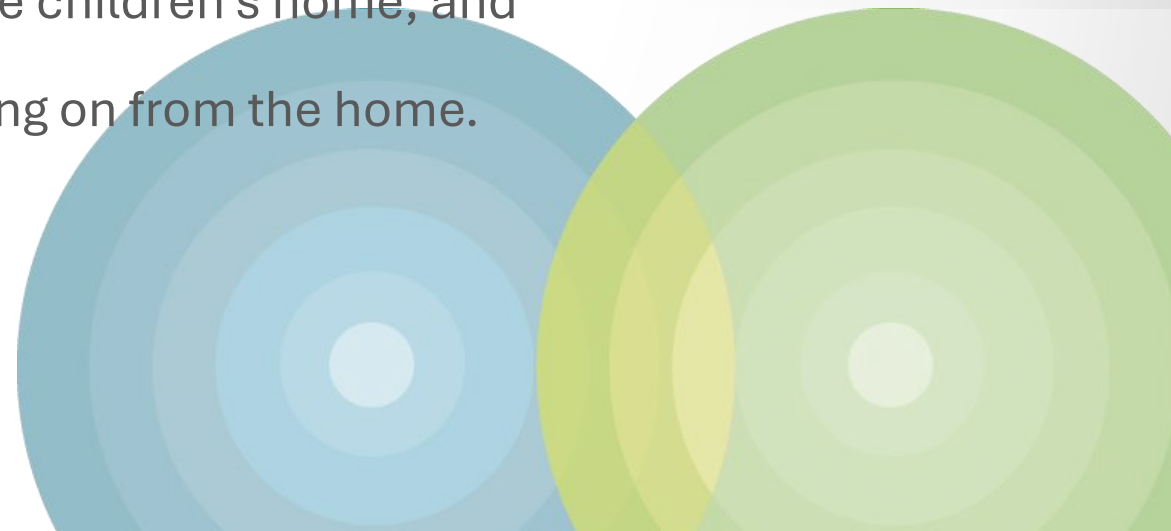
Children's Homes SCIFF

What does the SCCIF say...

Staff must receive adequate training to support the children effectively. This includes training on safeguarding, child development, and any specific needs of the children in their care in respect of Regulation 14 below:

Regulation 14 (1) The care planning standard is that children -

- (a) receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and
- (b) have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home.



Requires Improvement Inspection finding

Ofsted found the above planning was not evident in the experience of the child on inspection:

“there was poor care planning by the leadership team. This resulted in the child moving into the home when staff were not adequately prepared to meet their complex needs. Some staff did not complete the relevant training based on the known risks before the child moved in. This was a missed opportunity to help the child feel supported and to settle”

Ofsted December 2024

Top tips...

1. Be robust in gathering information :

- The manager should ensure the home has information on the child's medical history, educational needs, personal interests, and any known risks and to be prepared in the plan on how these will be met with staff appropriately trained. Work in partnership with social workers, previous caregivers, and the child to ensure the plan is comprehensive and tailored to their needs.

2. Staff Training and Briefing:

- Ensure all staff members are trained on the specific needs of the new child. This might include training on any medical conditions, behavioural strategies, or cultural sensitivities. Hold a team meeting to brief staff on the child's background, care plan, and any potential challenges, ensuring everyone is prepared and aligned in advance.

Top tips continued...

3. Welcoming Environment:

- Prepare the child's living space to make it welcoming and comfortable. Personalise their room with items that reflect their interests and preferences. Ensure the home environment is safe, clean, and inviting, helping the child feel at ease and valued from the moment they arrive.

4. Be consistent:

- Identify a consistent approach for the individual child based on known information that all staff have the skills to follow . Make sure that the child is aware of who to talk to and raise any concerns with from the start and assign a key worker and information on advocacy services to help the child adjust to their new environment.