

Inspection Top Tips

Positive Home Environment

May 2025



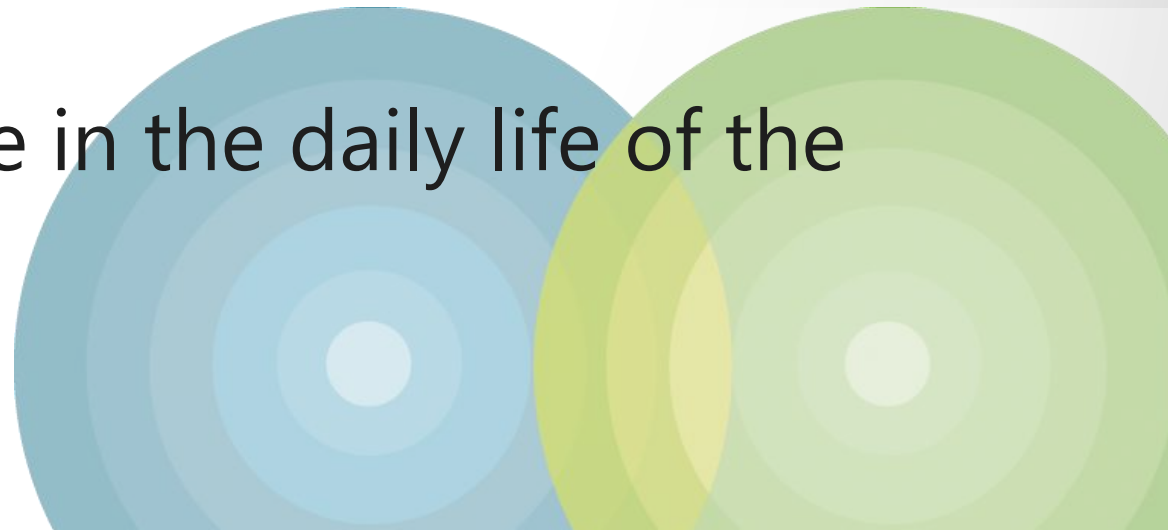
Children's Homes Regulations

Regulation 6 (2)(c)

ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to —

(i) meet the needs of each child; and

(ii) enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home;



Children's Homes Guide

- **7.3** Staff should work to make the children's home an environment that supports children's physical, mental and emotional health, in line with the approach set out in the home's Statement of Purpose.



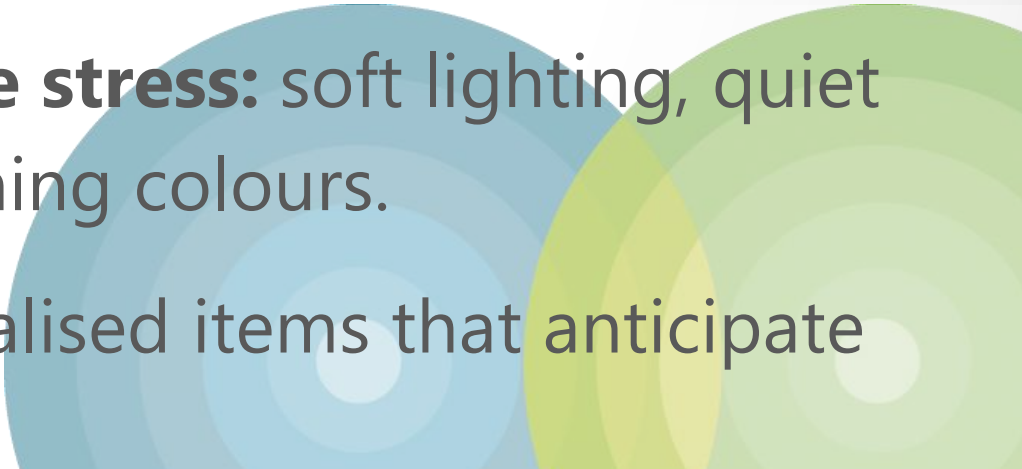
Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- Staff should provide a nurturing environment that is welcoming, supportive, and which provides appropriate boundaries in relation to their behaviour.
- Homes must also meet children's basic day to day needs and physical necessities.
- Staff should seek to meet the child's basic needs in the way that a good parent would, recognising that many children in residential care have experienced environments where these needs have not been consistently met.
- For children's homes to be nurturing and supportive environments that meet the needs of their children, they will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments.



“Some areas of the home are tired and require more regular maintenance. For example, the carpet in the communal areas needs replacing and redecoration is required to areas of marked and/or chipped paintwork. This detracts from the homely environment that the manager has been trying to create.”

Top tips...

- 1. Positive environments are trauma informed** – what might this look like?
 - 2. Involve children in age-appropriate decisions** about their care, routines, and environment making their presence in the home apparent with pictures, or other evidence of them living there that the child can accept.
 - 3. Design the environment to reduce stress:** soft lighting, quiet zones, personalised bedrooms, calming colours.
 - 4. Repair things** and avoid institutionalised items that anticipate attempts to damage
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Questions to when creating a positive environment ...

- Does the home feel warm and welcoming?
- Does the home evidence the child is present there in all areas?
- Have you involved the child in the design of their own spaces?
- Is everything in good working order and condition promoting a feeling of being valued?

