

Inspection Top Tips

Leaving Care

July 2025



Children's Homes Regulations

“...help each child to develop resilience and skills that prepare the child to ... live independently as an adult”

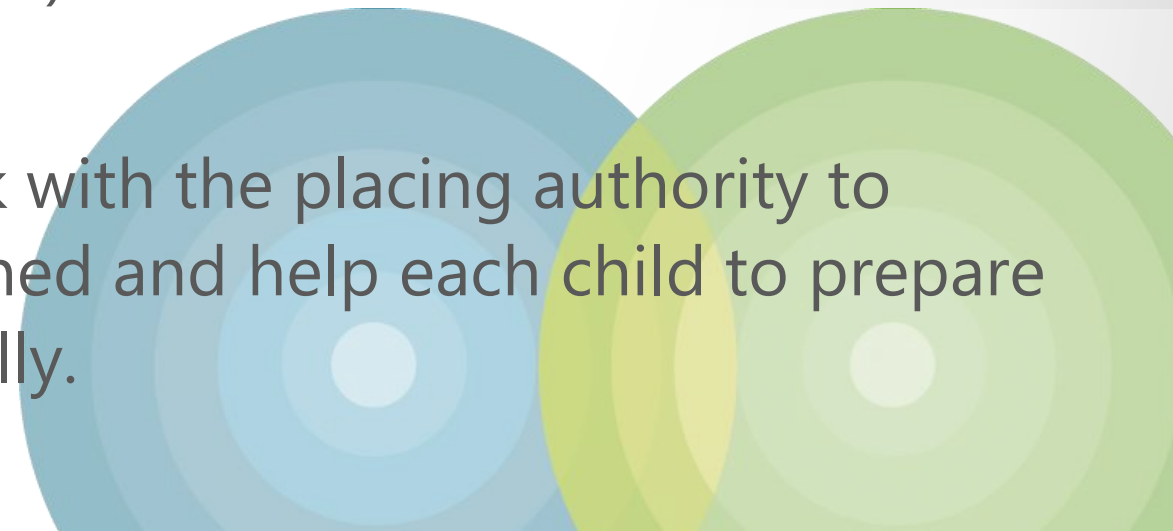
Regulation 6(2)(b)(vi)



Children's Homes Guide

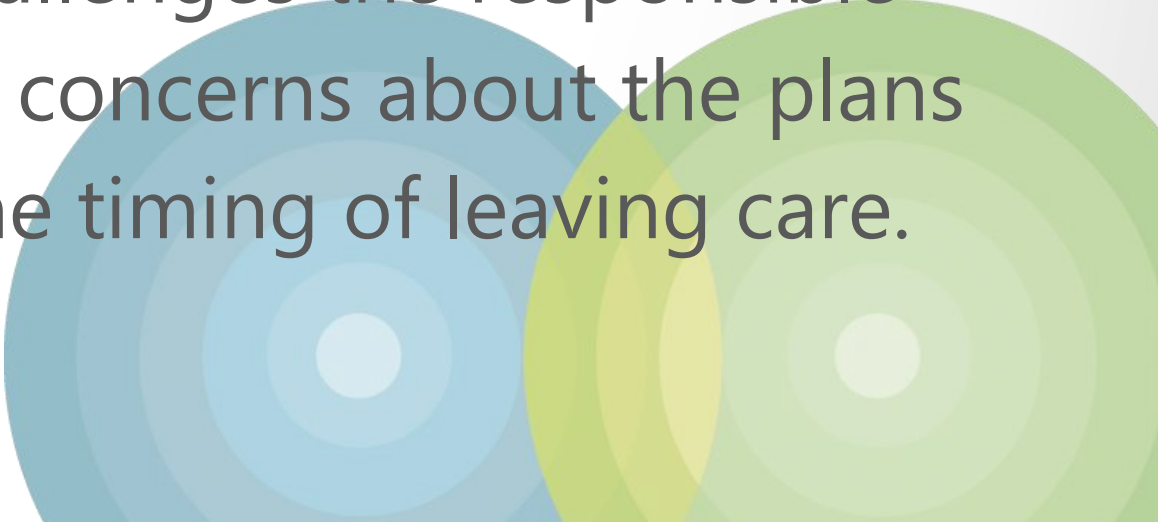
2.8 Where the placing authority or another relevant person does not provide the input and services needed to meet a child's needs during their time in the home or in preparation for leaving the home, the home must challenge them to meet the child's needs (see regulations 5(c)). Staff should act as champions for their children, expecting nothing less than a good parent would. The registered person should consider the use of an independent advocate (see paragraph 4.16) if the child's needs are not being met.

11.9 ...The registered person should work with the placing authority to ensure that each child's transition is planned and help each child to prepare for leaving both practically and emotionally.

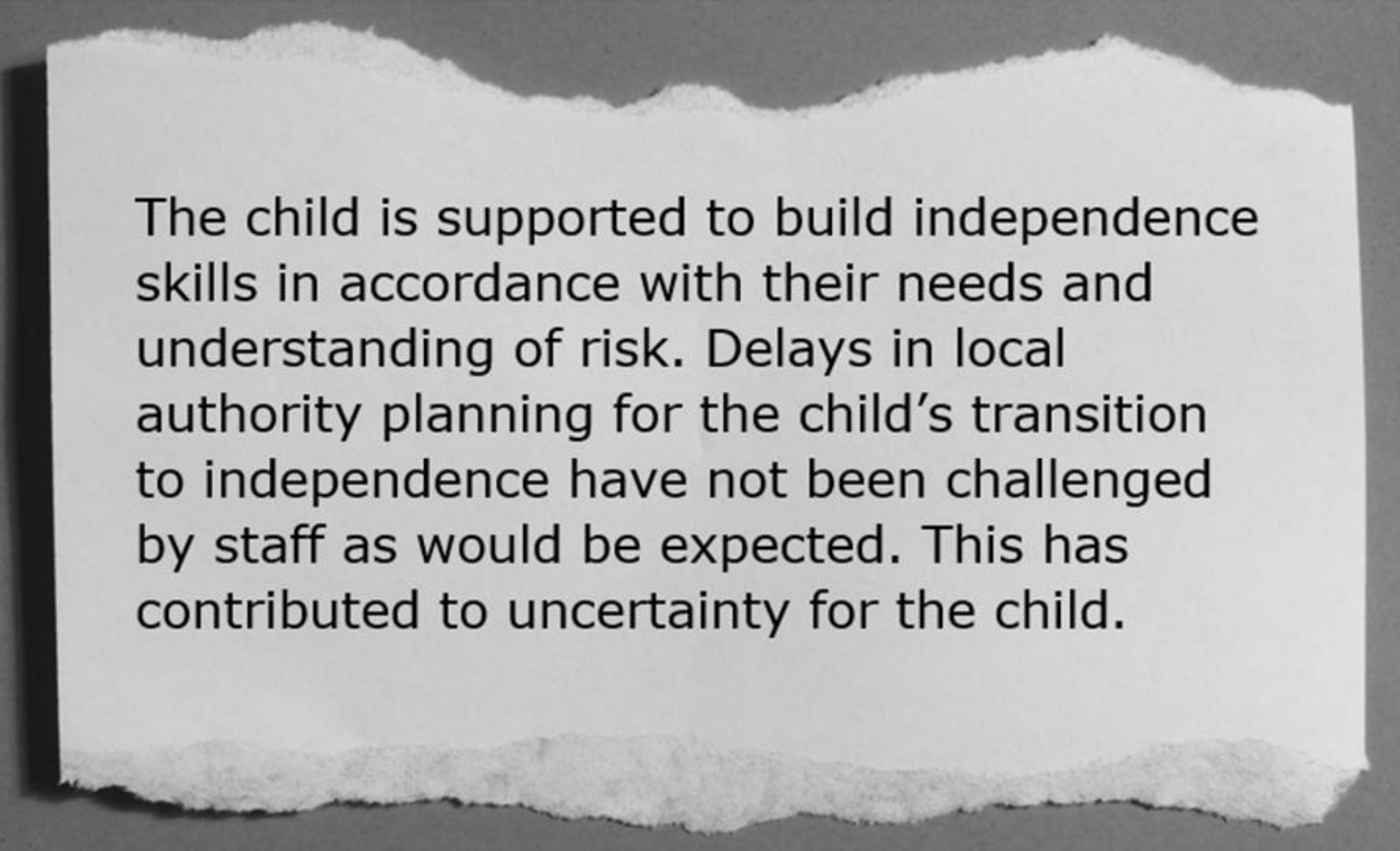


Children's Homes SCCIF Good Criteria

Children receive effective and timely help to prepare them for their futures. They are supported to develop their independence according to their individual needs, while protecting themselves from being in unsafe situations or with unsafe people. The home challenges the responsible placing authority when staff have concerns about the plans for children's futures, including the timing of leaving care.

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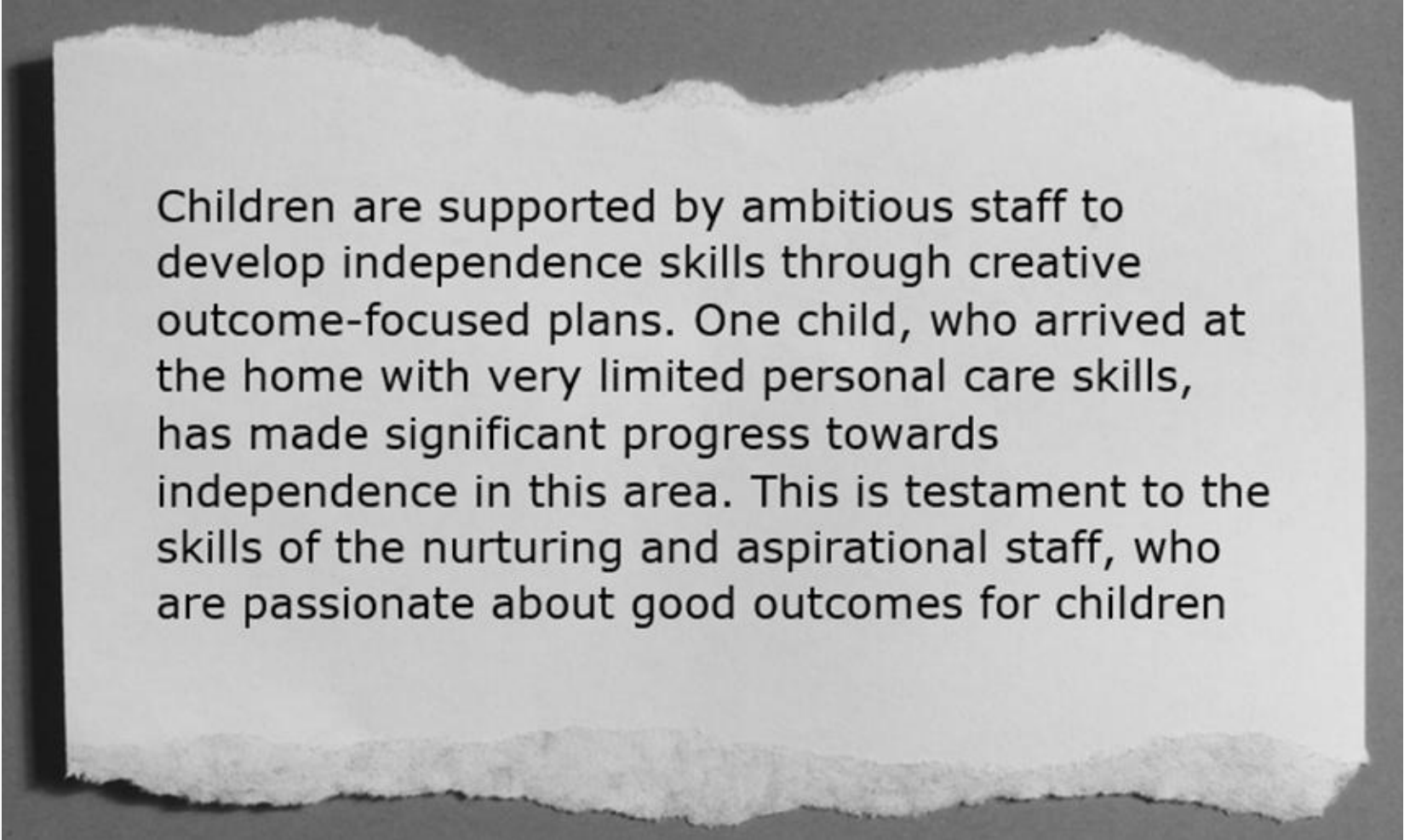
Ofsted comment from inspection – good

A piece of white paper with a torn, deckled edge is centered on a dark gray background. The paper contains a paragraph of text in a black, sans-serif font.

The child is supported to build independence skills in accordance with their needs and understanding of risk. Delays in local authority planning for the child's transition to independence have not been challenged by staff as would be expected. This has contributed to uncertainty for the child.


Recommendation: As per last slide

Ofsted comment from inspection – good

A piece of white paper with a torn, deckle edge is centered on a dark grey background. The paper contains a black and white text block, which is an Ofsted inspection comment. The text is written in a clean, sans-serif font and is left-aligned. The comment describes how children are supported by staff to develop independence skills through creative outcome-focused plans, highlighting the progress of one child who arrived with limited personal care skills and is now making significant progress towards independence. The comment is a testament to the skills of the nurturing and aspirational staff.

Children are supported by ambitious staff to develop independence skills through creative outcome-focused plans. One child, who arrived at the home with very limited personal care skills, has made significant progress towards independence in this area. This is testament to the skills of the nurturing and aspirational staff, who are passionate about good outcomes for children

Top tips...

1. **Start when they arrive...** children's homes are always a transition and before accepting a young person you should be thinking about where they are going and how you can help them get there.
 2. **Arm yourself with plans!** Ensure you have the care plan, needs assessment, pathway plan and reference these all within your placement plan.
 3. **Take a structured approach** - follow a programme that covers all the areas young people need to succeed.
 4. **Dream big** 😊 Care planning is about helping young people realise their goals. This is an exciting time where young people will have more agency and control, when done well.
 5. **"Staff should act as champions for their children, expecting nothing less than a good parent would"** – couldn't have put it better.
 6. **Fight hard** – it's tough out there. Build in visiting advocates to support the young person's wishes and feelings about when is the right time.
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