

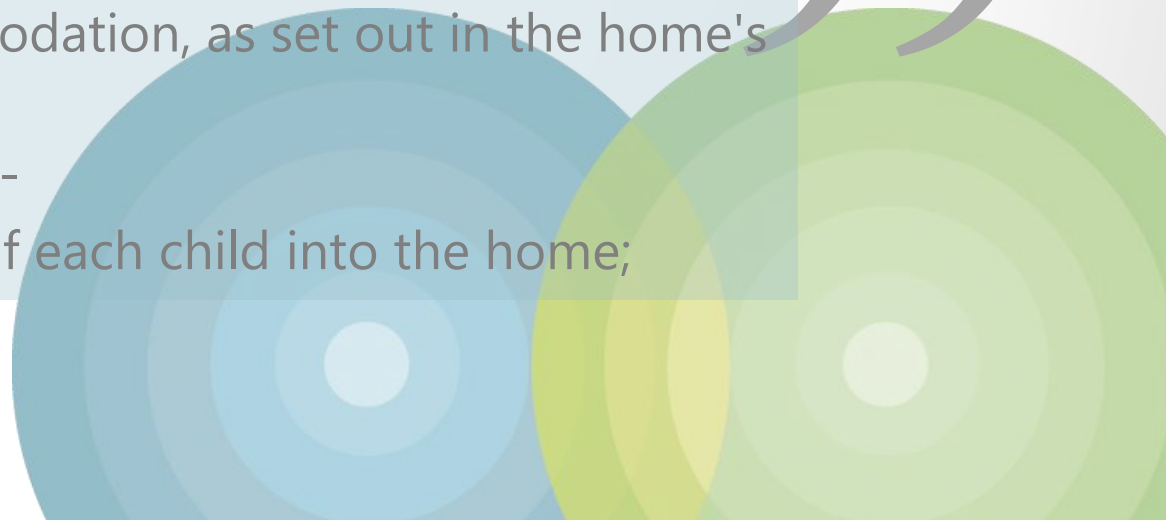
Inspection Top Tips

Children coming into care

October 2025



Children's Homes Regulations

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- (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.
- (2) In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure -
- (a) that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose;
 - (b) that arrangements are in place to -
 - (i) ensure the effective induction of each child into the home;
- 
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Regulation 14

Children's Homes Guide

11.7 Registered persons must ensure there are procedures in place for welcoming and introducing each child to the home, and that they are sensitive to the needs of the child at the time of arrival. A warm welcome and introduction to the home is an entitlement for all children whether they are admitted in a planned way or in an emergency.

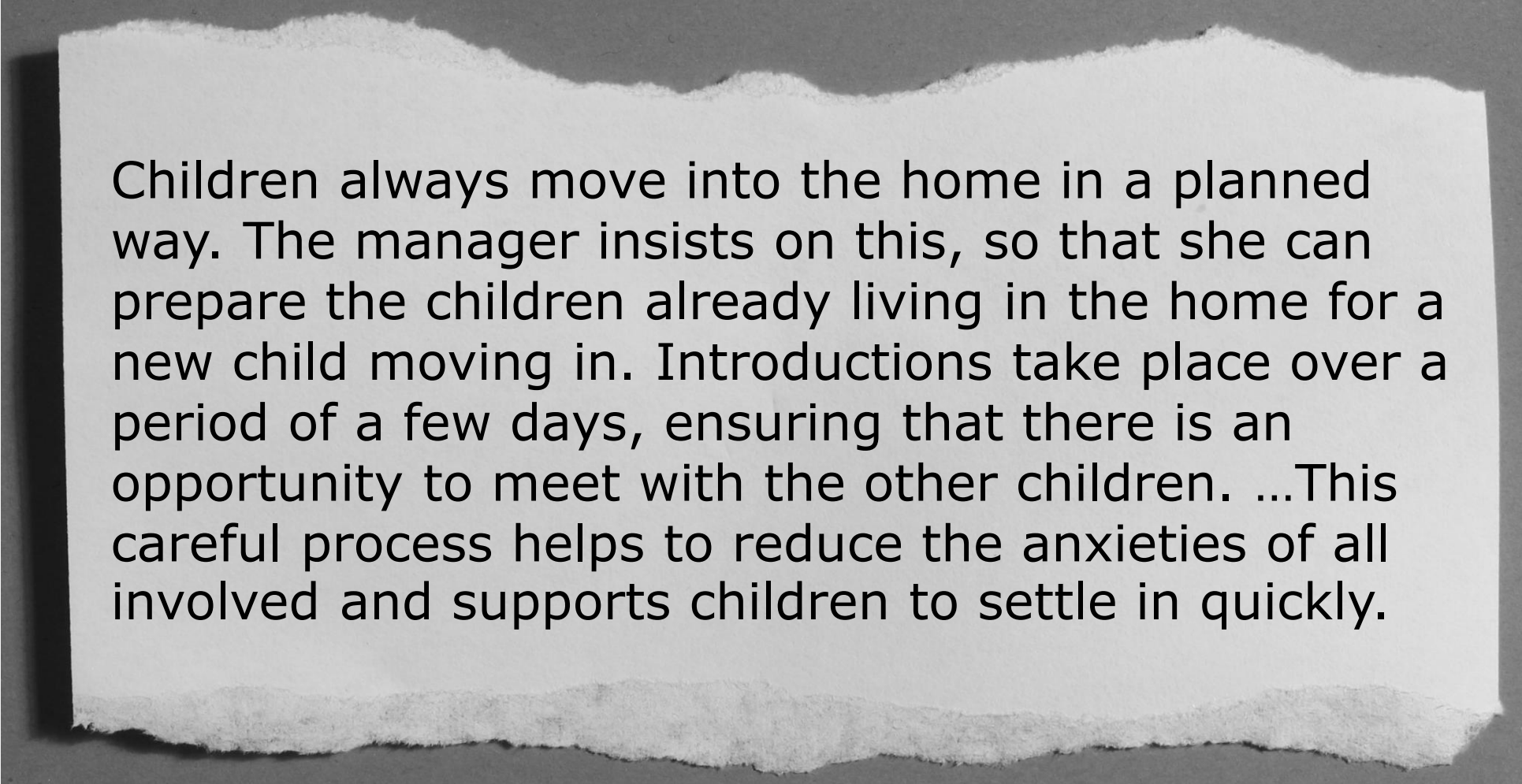


Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- All moves into the home are well-planned, at a pace that is suitable for children.
- Children who are new to the home are always welcomed sensitively.
- When children are admitted in an emergency, staff do all they can before the move to address any anxieties that children may have about moving to a new home without preparation.
- Staff understand children's preferred methods of communication, and consistently support and promote these methods so that children can participate fully in their daily lives.
- Children are treated with dignity and respect. They experience care and help that are sensitive and responsive to their identity and family history, including age, disability, faith or belief, sex, gender identity, language, race and sexual orientation.

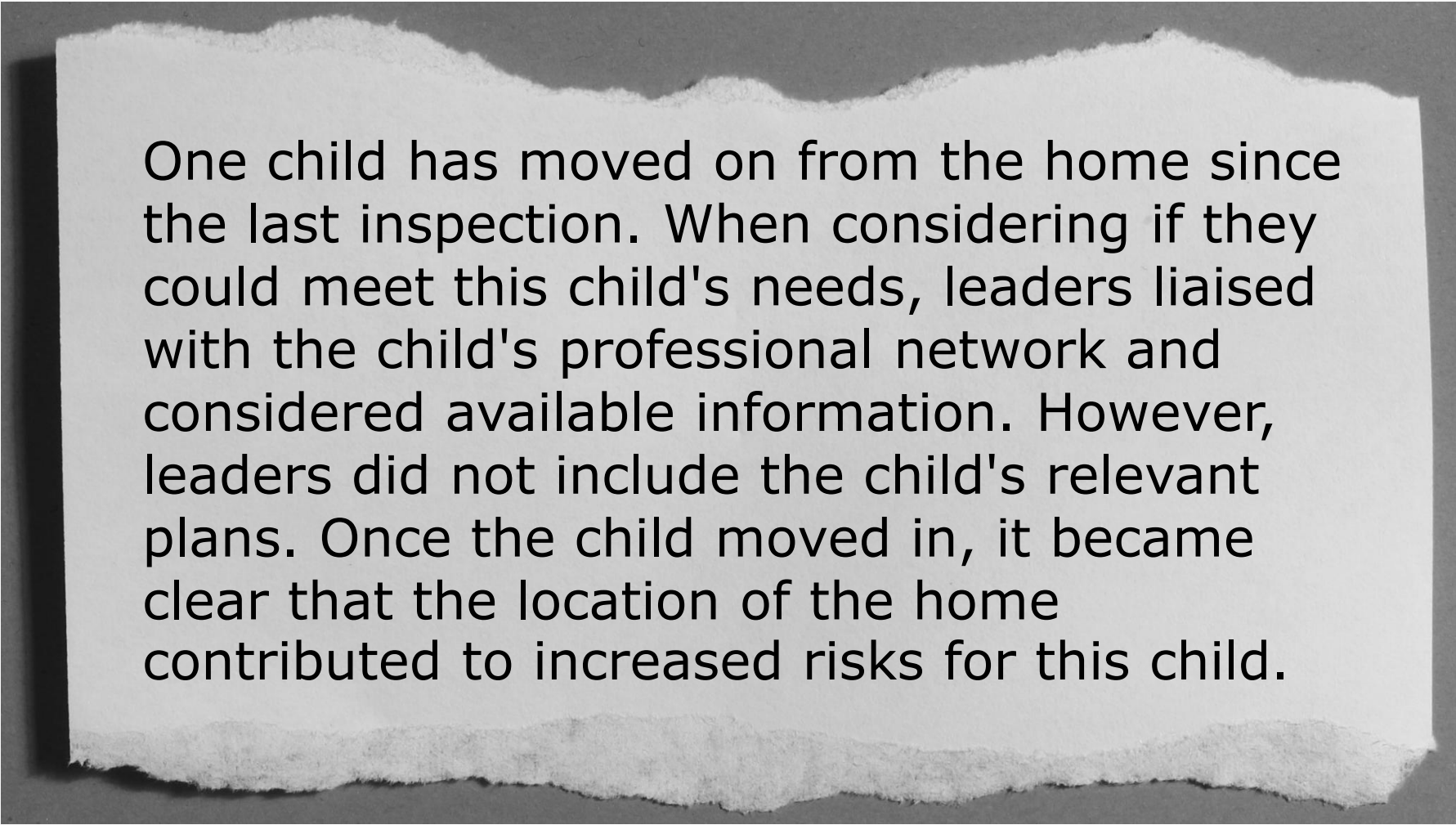


Ofsted comment from inspection – Outstanding Home

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Children always move into the home in a planned way. The manager insists on this, so that she can prepare the children already living in the home for a new child moving in. Introductions take place over a period of a few days, ensuring that there is an opportunity to meet with the other children. ...This careful process helps to reduce the anxieties of all involved and supports children to settle in quickly.

Ofsted comment from inspection – Requires Improvement

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One child has moved on from the home since the last inspection. When considering if they could meet this child's needs, leaders liaised with the child's professional network and considered available information. However, leaders did not include the child's relevant plans. Once the child moved in, it became clear that the location of the home contributed to increased risks for this child.

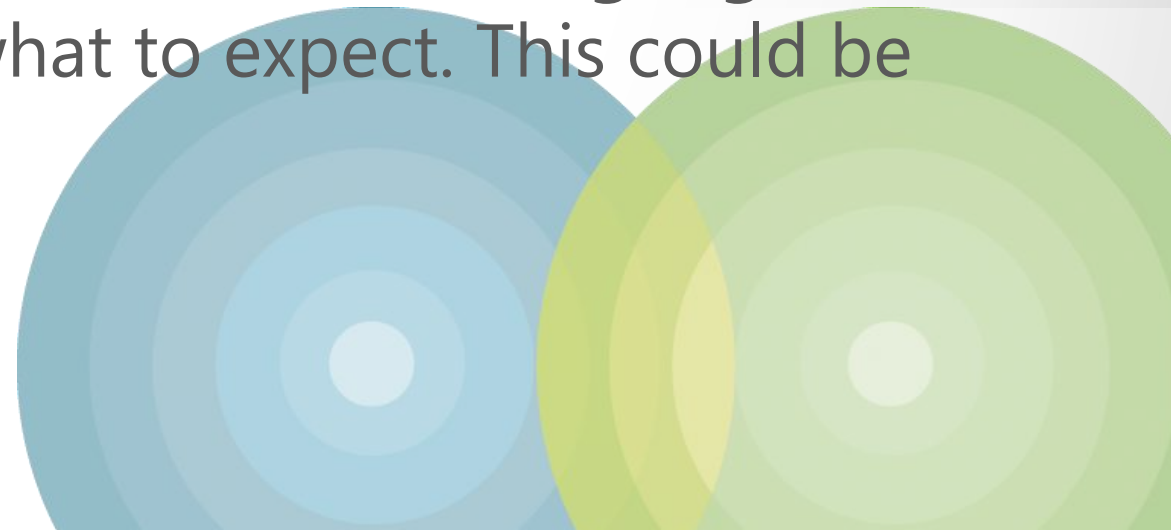
Top Tips...

1. **Meet the child before they are placed** and spend time talking to them about the home and staff with the chance to visit in advance whenever possible (i.e. unless IMpossible).
2. Really think about the group dynamic, staff skills/training, locality, **what it will be like for the child and others living with you.**
3. **Make sure the child's room and the home environment are ready, clean, and personalised** (e.g., favourite snacks, posters, bedding in preferred colours if known).
4. **Liaise with the placing social worker, school, previous carers, and family** to gather important information about the child's needs, routines, and triggers.



Top Tips Continued...

5. **Children need to be supported and involved** when a new child comes to the home. Introduce them slowly to the environment and peers, explaining routines in an age-appropriate way.
6. **Ensure the child is part of the whole process and are co-producers of transition plans.**
7. **Assign a key worker immediately to help the child feel supported.**
8. **Provide a welcome booklet written in accessible language,** explaining daily routines, rules, and what to expect. This could be provided electronically.



Safeguarding Lead (Level 5) Training...

This course explores in depth process, culture, risk assessment, the organisation and a root cause analysis approach to reflection tied closely to the regulations and inspection framework but absolutely focused on the experience of children and young people in care and supported accommodation settings. The course links day to day practice with the strategic view required in safe organisations.

Next dates:

Our next training course is on **19th & 26th November, 3rd & 10th December 2025, running 9:30am-12:30pm.**

This course is delivered via zoom, costs £264+vat, reduced to **£199+vat for members.**

To find out more and book on to this course using the link below:

[Safeguarding Lead \(Level 5\) Training](#)

