

# Teaching and Learning

## Let's Reflect – The Learning Environment



“Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers”.

EYFS Statutory Framework 2023

An enabling environment is where meaningful learning takes place which supports emotional well-being, speaking and listening skills and physical development, it allows children to be curious and imaginative. When setting out your environment, everyone involved needs to be clear about the philosophy of the setting, it needs to connect to the underpinning pedagogy and ethos. Ensure, your outdoor environment is safe with rich learning opportunities, no matter how small the space is, or if you have to pack away each time – it can still be made interesting and stimulating.

“Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis”.

Statutory Framework 2023

## Task

Consider the questions below and reflect on how you can further develop your learning environment indoors and outdoors:

- Is your environment inviting, inspiring and challenging? How do you know this? Consider how this may be subjective?
- Does it cover the seven areas of learning?
- Does your environment promote physical activity? (NHS recommend 3 hours per day)
- Are changes made to the space to reflect children's interests? How is the impact of those changes evaluated?
- Do boys and girls equally access all areas, or are some areas gender stereotyped? How conscious are staff of this?
- Do you evaluate how the spaces are being used, by whom and how frequently?
- Do you consider how versatile your spaces are? Are you making the most of the floor, tables, walls etc?
- Do all staff model and support children to take pride in maintaining the environment?

- Do staff use their initiative to amend the environment in response to children's play and learning in the moment?
- Are there small, enclosed spaces for children to withdraw when they feel they need to?
- Have you looked at the environment from a child's level to appreciate how the space looks to them?
- How does your environment support your curriculum?
- Have you considered the sensory impact of your environment? E.g., the acoustics, the colours, the temperature etc.