

Moving forwards with communication-friendly spaces

<i>How strong is your provision in these areas?</i>	<i>very good</i>	<i>room to improve</i>	<i>What are your next steps?</i>
Overall space – indoors and outdoors			
We have thought about the space from a child's point of view – what it looks, feels and sounds like.			
A relaxed mood is created with neutral colours, home-like features, soft materials and textures.			
Zones are created for different types of play – imaginative, role play, movement, construction, etc.			
Zones support different kinds of social interaction – in pairs, small groups and larger groups.			
Boundaries and pathways encourage children to move and explore, while supporting involvement in activities without disruptions.			
Background noise is kept to a minimum.			
Children have room to play, and can stretch out on the floor without bumping into other resources.			
We monitor how children are playing and using language in the spaces, and adjust these flexibly.			
Small spaces			
There is a cosy space which children have opportunity and time to use.			
There is somewhere for children to be alone, and with one or two others – indoors and outdoors.			
Resources			
Materials are stimulating and open-ended, and children use them flexibly.			
Natural materials give rich sensory stimulation.			
There are enough resources without overwhelming children with too much choice.			
Children combine resources from different areas in their play.			
Resources are stored in clear, labelled places.			
Display			
Simple displays focus on the content while avoiding being overly busy or visually distracting.			
Displays appeal to children's interests.			
Children can interact with displays.			
Displays are created in carefully chosen places, to support learning without distracting.			