

Communication Friendly Spaces Audit of Provision		
Key points to consider	Where we are now	Where we would like to be
The setting currently has a variety of spaces for the children to spend time in both indoors and outdoors		
The environment supports transition, there are places to watch from		
There are spaces for one		
The space is free from clutter, including the walls and ceilings including 'visual clutter'		
Spaces are clearly defined, even by a simple rug on the floor		

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The layout makes best use of the space for children		
Storage does not infringe on children's play space		
Softness is evident in the environment through the use of soft furnishings		
There are contained spaces available for children that are screened and enable children to play and interact without being disturbed by other children		
There are places available for children to relax		

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The furniture is arranged to promote eye contact and face to face communication		
The environment is organised to Promote positive behaviours		
The space is developmentally appropriate for the children		
There are areas where natural light is maximised, windows are not restricted through painting and blinds.		
Use of artificial light is kept to a minimum and lighting is muted and softened		
Task lighting is used – just lighting up one area using lamps		

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Flexible lighting is available that the children can use		
Colour is used to create a calm atmosphere and mood for children and adults		
Colour schemes have been considered (see CFS toolkit/ training handout for the effects of colour)		
Displays are not excessive, the use of colour is not over powering and has a positive impact		
The use of colour ensures that those things that are important can be clearly identified and is the focus on displays and resource display		

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Children can easily see what resources are available to them. They are at child height, uncluttered and not too many and organised clearly into clear boxes or neutral baskets		
Noise levels are reduced through the use of soft furnishings		
Background noise is kept to a minimum CD players and radios are turned off to reduce distraction		
The flow of movement in the space reduces additional noise and distractions. eg runways and race tracks are not created		
The positioning of activities has been considered in relation to noise. There are quieter zones in the environment		
Children can access resources		

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Key points to consider	Where we are now	Where we would like to be
independently		
Resources are available that are open ended, spark curiosity and fascinations		

For guidance refer to

- Communication Friendly Spaces: Improving speaking and listening skills in the Early Years Foundation Stage, Elizabeth Jarman
- The Communication Friendly Spaces Approach, Elizabeth Jarman,
- <http://www.elizabethjarmantraining.co.uk/>
- ' A Place to Talk' Books series