Subsection: The Environment

Guidance Notes	Reflective Questions	Resources	Your Evidence
'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 2017 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. The space needs to be clean, tidy and well maintained. Regularly rid the play space of any broken or incomplete resources and review the cleanliness of the environment. Boundaries should be created using furniture, fabric etc. to help identify different areas within the environment. Consider children's **schemas** and allow for places where they can contain themselves, or opportunities for the 'transporters' to move things around indoors and outdoors. The learning space and how it is set out, can influence children's behaviour. For example; a big open space may encourage children to run.	• Is your environment inviting, inspiring and challenging? • Does it cover the seven areas of learning? • Does your environment promote physical activity? (Recommended 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? • Is the environment supported by clear visual structures to support children's understanding? • Are there small enclosed spaces for children to withdraw? • Have you looked at the environment from a child's level to appreciate how the space looks to them?	Q Cards Free flow Using Scrap in Imaginative Play Training EED team training programme Useful Links Optimus Education Pre-school.org – Enabling environments PACEY – Creating an enabling environment Nursery World – Planning the environment Irresistible Learning – Early years environment audit Resources and templates	Guidance note: Remember to date your evidence to allow you to revisit and review relevance.

Practitioner should consider this when setting up/reviewing the environment. As well as noise levels, light and the colour of the walls (neutral colours are advisable), as these can contribute to children's behaviour and well-being.			