

Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.

## Section 1. Early career educator



You must know

As an educator, it's really important that buildings, fixtures, fittings, and both indoor and outdoor spaces should be adaptable, welcoming, and accessible; showcase community diversity; prioritise safety and health; be sustainable; and be equipped with safe furniture and tools that enhance learning.

### What Could Go Wrong If Educators Don't Do These Things?

**Flexibility & Accessibility:** Without adaptability, children might be restricted in their activities. Those with special needs may not have equal opportunities, creating an unfair learning environment.

**Welcoming Ambience:** A cold, unwelcoming environment can make children hesitant to participate, hindering their social and emotional development.

**Valuing Diversity:** Overlooking the community's cultural diversity might lead to feelings of alienation for some children, robbing them of the opportunity to learn about and respect different backgrounds.

**Safety & Health:** A lapse in safety standards might result in injuries or health issues. For example, inadequate ventilation can increase the risk of illnesses spreading.

**Sustainability:** If sustainability isn't practiced, it can harm our environment in the long run and miss out on teaching children crucial environmental values.

**Furniture & Equipment:** Items that aren't child-centred or safe can be detrimental to their physical health or hinder their intellectual and creative growth.

**Maximising Learning:** Inadequate spaces can limit a child's holistic development. They might miss out on crucial cognitive, physical, and social growth milestones.

**Trust from Parents:** Parents need assurance that their child is in a secure, enriching environment. Falling short can diminish their confidence in the institution.

**Legal Concerns:** Ignoring set guidelines might lead to legal troubles, especially if a child's safety is compromised.

**Educator Satisfaction:** Educators seek environments where they feel their teaching potential is maximised. Inadequate facilities can lead to job dissatisfaction and attrition.



You must practice

It's important to ensure that both indoor and outdoor spaces, along with buildings and fixtures, serve their intended purpose and are accessible to every child.

To help with the problems mentioned earlier on the left side, let's take a look at some real-life examples for guidance.

**Welcoming Atmosphere:** Make the area feel friendly with comfy items, bright colours, and fun artwork. Talk to children to see what they like and help them feel at home.

**Valuing Diversity:** Chat with community members and families about showing different cultures. Use learning items from many cultures and celebrate different events.

**Safety & Health:** Do safety checks often and keep everything clean. Make sure rooms have fresh air. Teach staff and children about staying safe and clean.

**Sustainability:** Have rules about being kind to the environment. Start recycling or plant-growing projects. Talk to children about why it's important to care for our world.

### Week 34, 30 October to 3 November 2023 – 3.1.1 Fit for Purpose

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**Furniture & Equipment:** Look at furniture and tools to make sure they're safe and useful. Choose items that are comfy for children and help them learn and play.

**Maximising Learning:** Change the learning area as children grow and need new things. Use different tools and activities to help children learn in many ways.

**Trust from Parents:** Talk openly with parents. Give them updates about their children and listen to their thoughts.

**Legal Concerns:** Know the rules about taking care of children. Ask if you need training to follow these rules and fix any problems fast.

**Educator Satisfaction:** Make sure educators and helpers feel good about their jobs. Give them chances to learn more and listen to their ideas or worries.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you doing well? Describe your practice in detail.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you need to work on? Describe how you could improve your practice.