

## **Supportive Environment for SLCN**

**Layout:** it is important to consider the layout of the room. This should include an opportunity for individual and group play. A small and cosy area for a child to escape to if they need time to be alone

**Lighting:** this can affect a child's mood and behaviour. Natural light is the best light to use

**Space:** children need to have enough space to communicate with others – personal space

**Choice:** offering children a choice of activities means that they are more likely to communicate while playing with something of their choice and interest. At the same time, too many activities can be overwhelming

**Noise levels:** High levels of noise can be distracting and prevent the child from developing their listening skills

**Visuals:** these are essential for children who have communication difficulties. They can aid children to share their thoughts and feelings with others. They should be always accessible to children.

**Visual distraction:** too much visual distraction can impact on a child's communication skills. This makes it difficult to keep a child's attention or for them to develop their listening skills

**Clear and consistent routines:** routines are important to a child with communication difficulties. This can help them feel calm and in control. A visual timetable will ensure that the child will be aware of what will happen next

**Adult role:** practitioners should not only offer time for communication but to stand back and observe. Children need to be able to choose an activity without the pressure of communication. Observe and then join in

**Create opportunities:** the environment should create opportunities for communication. Interactive areas are good for children to extend their play, use problem-solving skills and communicate with others. Children should also direct their play and create scenarios they have experienced before. This type of play encourages the child to build on good communication and language skills

### **Useful References and Links**

<https://www.earlyyearscentre.org/eyc/enabling-environment/10-ways-create-communication-friendly-environment/>