Tip Sheet

Aesthetics In Your Learning Environments and Involving Families in the Process

#### Indicator: 1.3.d: Provide displays and focal points to enhance the space.

#### Indicator: 3.2.c: Promote regular communication between the family and program

#### Indicator: 3.2.d: Provide opportunities for families to be involved in programming for their children.

“The physical environment for children can directly affect the quality and quantity of play, which in turn affects their development.” (Informedesign.org - sited in 2012)

Think about the impression that your environment creates for children, families and educators. What do you notice on entry to your environment? What does it look, sound and smell like? Ask your children and their families about their impressions of and feelings about the aesthetics of your classroom.

Consider the colours, décor and arrangement of the common spaces. The shared areas of your classroom, including the entrance, foyer, halls and walkways, and office should be warm and welcoming and for both families and educators and be an observable reflection of your program’s philosophy. Whilst you are unlikely to be able to shift walls, or change the shape of the built environment, you can create an aesthetically pleasing environment through your choice of colours, furnishing and display materials.

Framed photos of the educators and some art works by the children can personalize the space and provide information about the educators. A lounge or comfortable chairs can be a place for conversations with children, families and other people entering the setting.

Walls that are crowded with information can be overwhelming and make it difficult for families to know what information is new or important. Excessive use of bright primary colours can detract from a calm and nurturing environment.

Use feedback from families (and children where possible) to help you identify strengths and weaknesses of your environment. . One idea could be to ask them about a specific element of your environment. For example, ‘do you feel a sense of belonging in this environment, what could we do to make it better?’

https://www.ecrh.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/ipsp/Create-the-perfect-play-space-learning-environments-for-young-children.pdf?sfvrsn=12