



Design Proposal

Small Family Space @ Moray House
School of Education and Sport
Old Nursery School,
Holyrood Campus

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Feel and Design

Natural elements and colours

(e.g. plants, wood)

Calm and peaceful

(well-being for children and carers)

Accessible

(e.g. buggy space both for entrance and storage)

Light

(e.g. natural light, fairy lights, light colours and light temperature)

Not overstimulating through colours and forms/shapes

(not being too busy visually)

Organic forms

(e.g. curves, soft forms through furniture and design)

Comfort and welcoming

(e.g. soft materials like cushions, armchairs, children's sized sofas, little chairs and tables; provision of coffee, tea, place to heat up milk and/or food etc)

Safe, comforting and enriching spaces for babies

Sensory design including smell, touch, light

(e.g. natural organic humidifier like lavender)- enriching but not overstimulating

A space for privacy for nursing mothers

(e.g. natural, organic / wooden separating screen)

A space with child-sized furniture like children's sofas, table, chairs, child-sized play resources

Decolonising design, resources and spaces

Learning with

- Indigenous knowledges
- Knowledges from communities of colour
- Ancestral knowledges

Challenging white hegemonic practices and white supremacy in design and design practices

Designed by the members of the community and young children and suits their needs and curiosities. A space that is culturally relevant and responsive.



Child-centered design

Resources which are enriching, engaging children's curiosities

Opportunities for deep focused and creative play for children (which has an impact on carers too e.g. if child is deep in play then that provides the space for carer to relax, work, focus etc)



Art materials like for drawing

Heuristic play

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/heuristic-play>

Treasure Baskets

<https://www.howweplayandlearn.com/post/treasure-baskets>

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/treasure-baskets>

Open ended resources

e.g. magnets, wooden blocks

Play materials that encourage role play

e.g. wooden small world play

Origami

Books

Experiences like weaving

Building, Creating and Construction



Links from our play café project

The Play Cafe Project Website

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/playcafe/>

The Play Cafe Project Briefing

Our briefing has some key ideas about the design of children and family spaces, you can read it here especially pages (p.13-25); page 16 is about Design, Space and Resource matters.

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/playcafe/wp-content/uploads/sites/10077/2024/04/The-Play-Cafe-Project-Briefing.pdf>

Resources for designing children's/families spaces, a few ideas:

Community playthings

<https://www.communityplaythings.com>

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/training-resources/open-ended-play>

Froebel Trust pamphlets

<https://www.froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/pamphlets>

Oplay: open ended play resources for children

<https://oplayresources.co.uk>

Photos

Pop-up play cafes in Edinburgh



Photos

Pop-up play cafes in Edinburgh





Photos

Pop-up play cafes in Greece







