



Unlocking the Learning

M2.1 Keeping the *Home* in Home Child Care

By incorporating these tips, you can ensure that your family child care environment retains the warmth and comfort of a true home away from home, providing a nurturing space for children to learn and grow.

1. Create a Warm Welcome:

- Set up an inviting entryway with a designated space for children's belongings.
- Consider a bulletin board showcasing weekly activities, photos of children at play, and important reminders.
- Ensure there's a comfortable chair for parents to sit in during drop-offs and pick-ups.

2. Embrace Homey Decor:

- Opt for a homestyle environment with natural materials and soft, neutral colours.
- Avoid overly institutional elements; instead, focus on creating a comfortable, beautiful, and calm atmosphere.
- Incorporate meaningful wall displays that reflect the uniqueness of your childcare space.

3. Functional and Practical Design:

- Arrange the room to be both functional and practical, considering the needs of different age groups.
- Keep the space uncluttered to allow for easy movement and exploration.
- Ensure the environment is organized efficiently, promoting a seamless flow of activities.

4. Reflect Child Perspectives:

- See the environment from a child's viewpoint, ensuring it caters to their basic needs before fostering learning.
- Provide spaces where children can explore and wander freely, fostering a sense of security and belonging.
- Designate cozy corners for alone time and ensure visibility for the provider to monitor activities.



5. Foster Individuality:

- Accommodate the diverse moods and activities of children within the homestyle environment.
- Use mirrors strategically to help children maintain a connection with their surroundings.
- Offer choices within the provider's sight line, allowing children to engage in activities that interest them.

6. Prioritize Predictability:

- Establish a predictable environment that helps children feel secure and confident in their surroundings.
- Create a consistent routine that accommodates exploration and play, ensuring a sense of stability.

7. Balance Beauty and Function:

- Strive for a balance between aesthetics and functionality in your home childcare setting.
- Incorporate natural elements, soft tones, and pleasing visuals while maintaining an organized and efficient layout.

8. Stay True to "Home Away from Home":

- Remember that families choose home childcare for its "home away from home" feel.
- Prioritize individual attention, opportunities for socialization, and a sense of community within the familiar neighbourhood.



Your home child care is not required to look like a miniature child care centre. Quality care can be provided in a home-like setting just as easily. Focus on your relationships with the families, support children's rights, continue your professional growth and ensure your environment promotes health, safety and child development.