

Environmental Observation tool for the Visually Impaired (EOVI)

The EOVI is a list of items to highlight areas requiring attention within a nursing home. It is a tool to help care professionals become more aware of the residents' living environment within nursing homes. Using the EOVI the living rooms, corridors and the bathrooms can be specifically examined. Observations can form the basis for dialogue within the nursing teams to determine possible adaptations for both the short and the long term.

In the EOVI three aspects of the living environment are highlighted. These are: *light*, use of *colour & contrast*, and *furnishing & obstacles*. The care professional can achieve a significant improvement in the residents' visual comfort by implementing changes to the furnishing.

Care professionals will be able to mark each item with yes or no.

Corridors		
	Yes	No
Light		
The lamps provide bright white light. <i>(Colours appear natural).</i>		
The lamps provide uniform illumination. <i>(There is no sudden transition from light to dark.</i>		
The walls are light in colour.		
Paintings are placed ensuring that light reflection and glare is prevented.		
At each window, bright light can be sufficiently shielded. (Drapes or blinds are functional).		
Lighting is not only decorative, but specifically luminates the floor.		
The floor and walls are matt. <i>(Not shiny).</i>		
Colour & Contrast		
The flooring is of one colour. <i>(Uniform, with no wild print).</i>		
The wall covering is one colour.		
The colours of the floor and walls are contrasting. <i>(The floor is darker than the walls).</i>		
The handrailing on the wall is clearly visible. <i>(The colour of the handrail contrasts with the background).</i>		
Doorsteps are clearly marked across their fullwidth using a striking colour		
Glass doors are clearly marked with a strip at eye/chest height.		
Signs and icons are situated at, or just above, eye level.		
The letters on signs and icons are large. <i>(And easily legible for all residents).</i>		
The colours used in icons and letters on signs are easy to distinguish.		
There is a light within the call button.		
The door handle and door frames can be easily distinguished by colour and contrast.		
Furnishing & Obstacles		
All obstacles are situated on one side of the corridor. <i>(Such as fire extinguishers, hoists, medication table, wheelchairs and walking frames).</i>		
The house number and name plate are placed on eye level.		
There is plenty of room to move		
Comments		

Common Room		
	Yes	No
Light		
Windows provide even room lighting. <i>(There is no transition from dark to light).</i>		
The lamps provide bright white light. <i>(Colours appear natural).</i>		
During residents' activities, lighting can be adjusted for each individual		
There is extra lighting at the tables and chairs to enable activities such as reading.		
At each window, bright light can be sufficiently shielded. <i>(Drapes or blinds are functional).</i>		
The table tops or worktop are matt. <i>(Not shiny).</i>		
It is possible to sit close to the television.		
Colour & Contrast		
The chairs have a contrasting colour to the floor.		
The door handle and door frames can be distinguished by colour contrast.		
The switches and sockets contrast in colour with the wall and are at reachable height.		
All the characters are at eye level with large/contrasting characters.		
Electrical wires or leads are concealed or have a contrasting colour to the wall and floor.		
Upon laying the table, placemats or tablecloths used are plain in colour.		
Upon laying the table, the use of contrasting colours is taken into account.		
Furnishing & Obstacles		
There are no protruding objects, including drawers or doors left (half) open.		
Doorsteps are marked across their full width with a line in a striking colour.		
There is plenty of room to move.		
Comments		

Bath Room

Yes

No

Light

Mirrors and tiles do not cause blinding glare (by reflection).

The lamps provide bright white light.
(Colours appear natural)

Colour & Contrast

The colour used for the floor is different to that of the walls.
(The floor is darker than the walls)

Doorsteps are marked across their full width with a line in a striking colour.

The handrailing on the wall is clearly visible.

The door handle and door frames can be distinguished by colour and contrast

The colour of the towels contrasts with the bathroom interior.

The colour of the toilet seat contrasts with the colour of the toilet and bathroom interior

The colour of the toilet roll holder contrasts with the toilet paper.

The hot and cold water taps are labeled clearly.

The accessories situated on the floor are clearly visible compared to the walls and floors, such as a laundry basket.

The light buttons and alarm bells are clearly visible.

Furnishing & Obstacles

There are anti slip mats or tiles with structure.

Steps and doorsteps are clearly marked.

Comments