



Care environments: Engagement areas

- 1. Principle 8:** Arrange seating so that it is more conducive to conversation and interaction.
- 2. Principle 7:** Create a 'reminiscence room' with furniture and objects appropriate to the generation currently living there. People with dementia are likely to be most familiar with elements from when they were in their 20s and 30s.
- 3. Principle 10:** Keep jigsaw puzzles, baskets that contain era related objects, games and other interesting items on open shelves to create engagement opportunities. Visually accessible items encourage self-engagement.
- 4. Principles 1 and 6:** Vinyl is softer and safer than conventional hardwood or tile flooring. Avoid patterns that can cause perception difficulties.
- 5. Principle 8:** Allow for small private areas for one person to sit by themselves. **Principle 10:** Provide positive engagement opportunities within arm's reach. For example a jigsaw puzzle or a basket of 'sensory items' like cloths of different textures or a variety of buttons to sort through.
- 6. Principle 5:** Provide opportunities for sensory engagement and reminiscent opportunities. For example Caleb's Baskets can be kept next to chairs, and filled with sensory items that can be sorted or rummaged through.
- 7. Principle 5:** An aviary introduces sensory delight into the environment, stimulating curiosity, interest and engagement. Position it in sight of seating areas.
- 8. Principle 5:** While reading the newspaper or enjoying a jigsaw puzzle, windows allow for natural daylight to illuminate the interior. **Principles 5 and 8:** A window which looks out on to a garden provides a good opportunity to sit and enjoy watching the birds or other outdoor activities.
- 9. Principle 10:** Provide easy access to go out into a safe enclosed garden where the fresh air, the sunlight, birds, flowers and nature can be enjoyed.