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Questionnaire regarding the environment and the rights of the child

Questions 1-3:

Denmark ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, and Denmark is therefore obliged to comply with the Convention. This applies to all legislation including in the area of Early Childhood Education and Care facilities (ECEC).

According to the Act on Day-Care, one of several purposes of Danish ECEC facilities is that children shall have a physical, mental and aesthetical child environment that promotes their welfare, health, development and learning. Thus, the child environment constitutes an important aspect of ensuring the welfare, health, development and learning of all children. The purpose, however, emphasizes that a good environment not only deals with the physical arrangement of the ECEC facility, but that the child environment also includes the psychological and aesthetic conditions of the ECEC, and that these factors together contribute to the children having the optimal conditions for development and learning.

Furthermore, according to Danish building regulations (BR15, chapter 3.4.2, para-graph 2), the area and volume of occupiable rooms in ECEC facilities must be adequately suited for the number of children and employees in the institution. Occupiable rooms in ECEC facilities must have a clear floor area of no less than 3 m2 per nursey-age child and 2 m2 per preschool child. Occupiable rooms in ECEC facilities must also be ventilated by ventilation systems comprising both forced air supply and extraction and heat recovery which preheat the air coming in. The requirements concerning a clear floor area and ventilation should be seen as a joint solution to ensure a good and sufficient indoor climate in ECEC facilities.