

18/03/2025

BUILDING & DESIGN

Interior & Exterior of Barnahus & Barnahus-like centres

Viktoria Sebhelyi

Marianiki Vlachou

Addy Adelaine



STRUCTURE

1. Introduction 
2. The Building & Exterior Design 
3. Interior Design: General Considerations 
4. Interior Design: Four Rooms 
5. Inclusive Design 
6. Child Participation in Design 

Note: Terminology, Barnahus and Barnahus-like centres or services are used as synonyms. The design paper focuses more on the European model. Participants will receive a handout explaining the slides in more detail, triangles on the left corner of the slides support navigation.

TERMINOLOGY

In this document, the term Barnahus and Barnahus-like services describes all multi-agency approaches to responding to child victims and witnesses of crime.

We use this term to include

- Services that explicitly commit to the Barnahus Model as defined by the Barnahus European Standards
- Services that aspire to achieve the Barnahus Model as defined by the Barnahus European Standards
- Local variations of services similar to the Barnahus Model as defined by the Barnahus European Standards
- Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) commonly located in the United States
- Child Advocacy Centres / Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CAC / CYACs) commonly located in Canada

LEGISLATION, CONVENTIONS & INTERNATIONAL GUIDANCE

Guidelines and best practices worldwide influence the design of Barnahus, CACs, and CYACs, but no binding international law regulates the exact design, only its principles. (UNCRC, CRPD, Lanzarote Convention, CoE Child-friendly justice Guidelines). Instead, various policies and standards shape their design.

Child-friendly justice (Council of Europe 2010) means a system that respects and effectively upholds all children's rights at the highest level possible:

- Children should learn about the court layout and other facilities.
- Cases involving children should take place in non-intimidating and child-sensitive environments.
- Children should be treated respectfully, considering their age, special needs, maturity, understanding, and communication challenges.
- Interview and waiting rooms should be welcoming for children. Creating spaces specifically for gathering statements from child victims and witnesses can enhance their experience, ensuring they feel safe and supported.

LEGISLATION, CONVENTIONS & INTERNATIONAL GUIDANCE

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- CRPD includes essential guidelines for reasonable accommodation in Articles 2 and 5. "Reasonable accommodation" means making necessary changes or adjustments to help people with disabilities enjoy their rights and freedoms equally with others. This requires "necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms." (United Nations, 2006).
- Article 5 of the CRPD states that steps must be taken to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, ensuring reasonable accommodations are provided (United Nations, 2006).

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (US Department of Justice 2010)

- The design of CACs in the United States is influenced by national legislation, which includes the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (US Department of Justice, 2010).
- The National Accreditation Standards for CACs also mention the ADA.
- The ADA includes details on enhanced accessibility. Whilst new buildings should be designed for accessibility, older buildings may be exempt from having to be altered (National Children's Alliance, 2023).

STANDARDS

Name of Standard	Standard or Rule No.	Relevant part of standard	Link
Bairns' Hoose Standards (Scotland)	4.	Design and Environment	Bairns Hoose Design Standard
Barnahus Standards	4.	Child-friendly environment	Child-friendly environment Promise Barnahus
National Standards of Accreditation (USA)	10.	Child safety and protection	Safety and protection CAC
National Guidelines (Canada)	3.	Diversity & Inclusion	Diversity and inclusion CYAC
	4.	Forensic Interviews	Forensic interviews CYAC
	10.	Organisational Capacity	Organisation capacity CYAC
International Standard Organisation (ISO) Requirements for child-friendly services for victims of violence		Under Development	Under Development

THE EUROPEAN BARNAHUS STANDARDS

The European Barnahus Standards emphasise creating a child-friendly environment through clear guidelines for building design and accessibility.

- They stress the importance of keeping victims separate from alleged offenders.
- Barnahus facilities are standalone, reachable by public transport, and suitable for children with disabilities and special needs.
- The interior focuses on child–and family-friendly comfort and safety, with furniture appropriate for children’s ages and developmental stages.
- Separate, soundproof areas are available to ensure privacy.
- The interagency team can watch the interviews from another room (Haldorsson, 2019).

NATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION (USA)

- CACs support following standard safety and accessibility guidelines and fire codes.
- The National accreditation standards do not require specific internal design elements, but they offer some advice and guidance.
- The CAC standard also highlights the need to design and decorate client service areas to represent the diverse community they serve (National Children's Alliance, 2023).
- The next slide will present the key concepts of Barnahus and Barnahus-like centres. These key concepts will be further discussed at relevant points in the presentation.

KEY CONCEPTS

Child-
Friendly
Environments

One-Roof
Model
(Four Rooms)

Accessibility

Designed for
and with
Children

Trauma-
Informed
Design

KEY CONCEPTS

Child-friendly environment

- The concept of child-friendliness means different things to different people involved in Barnahus or Barnahus-like centres. For some, it means being welcoming and caring. For others, it focuses on the building's quality, colour schemes and layout (Stefansen, 2017).
- Barnahus's interior design aims to create a safe and neutral environment. This is done through warm colours, art, sound isolation, soft finishes, and furniture that provides privacy and safety. The study shows that child-friendliness depends on key factors like safety, adequate brightness, colour schemes, soundproofing, and proper air ventilation (Stefansen, 2017).

One-roof model

- The main idea is to gather all services in one location, promoting collaboration and ease of access. When the one-roof method is not in place, various agents must be involved in a timely and well-coordinated manner (Greijer and Wenke, 2023).

KEY CONCEPTS

Accessibility

- Accessibility is a key consideration for Barnahus and Barnahus-like centres. The presentation will discuss this further.
- The Barnahus quality standards state that the premises must be accessible by public transport, including for children and young people with special needs and disabilities. This ensures they can access information, guidance, and opportunities to share their views within the services provided (Haldorsson, 2019).

Designed for and with children

- Child participation is a crucial right for children. Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (United Nations 1989) highlights this principle, and the Barnahus Quality Standards also emphasise its importance.
- A 2021 study by the Barnahus Network found that many European countries ensure children's voices are heard throughout their experiences in Barnahus (Promise Barnahus Network, 2021).

KEY CONCEPTS

Trauma-informed design

Healthcare Improvement Scotland defines trauma-informed services as those that recognise how common trauma is and know how to support people affected by it. These services use a strong understanding of trauma and its impacts. They ensure that this knowledge is part of all systems, policies, and environments (Healthcare Improvement Scotland and The Care Inspectorate 2023)

Traumatised children often experience hypervigilance, constantly monitoring their surroundings to ensure personal safety. This state is physically and emotionally exhausting, quickly depleting internal resources meant for learning (WDM Architecture, 2021).

According to trauma-informed design, buildings are considered “the first line of therapy” but are not used for the first response (WDM Architecture, 2021).

To effectively support individuals experiencing hypervigilance, the following strategies can help reduce it according to trauma-informed design:

- Incorporation of transparent materials to enhance visibility and provide vantage points.
- Design of spaces that promote a sense of safety and protection.
- The provision of multiple pathways facilitates access to various destinations.
- Creation of serene and tranquil areas that are distinct from primary activities.

KEY CONCEPTS

Trauma-informed design

Trauma-informed design is the integration of principles of trauma-informed care into design. The physical environment can impact emotions and behaviours, both negatively and positively. It can also increase or reduce stress. The spaces can communicate safety and promote supportive relationships or symbolise a lack of dignity and agency, encouraging re-traumatization. ([Trauma-informed design society](#))

One of the origins of trauma-informed design stems from the design of homeless shelters, and one of its main principles is safety.

According to trauma-informed design, "It is not only important for a space to be safe but also for it to feel safe to its users" (WDM Architecture, 2021)

This feeling of safety can be achieved through various design elements, including the layout of rooms, the structure of the building, the presence of staff, and the installation of security cameras in secluded areas such as parking lots, garages, and stairwells while avoiding their placement in common areas.

APPROACHES TO FINANCING

- Large architectural firms in the USA and Canada are occasionally approached by Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) to assist with designing and constructing new facilities or converting existing buildings into CACs.
- Collaboration with architectural firms, such as Number Ten Architectural Group in Canada, can sometimes provide fundraising support for establishing CACs.
- In 2022, the Toba Centre launched a fundraising campaign to raise \$15 million to relocate and expand a new centre.
- The campaign was led by a cabinet of 18 volunteer committee members, including a campaign chair, and involved collaboration with media sponsors.
- To read more about the campaign, click here: <https://tobacentre.ca/capital-campaign/>



Photo: [Toba Centre for Children and Youth](https://tobacentre.ca/capital-campaign/), Canada

STANDALONE OR INTEGRATED

- The Barnahus buildings are frequently detached (standalone), mainly in the Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway and Denmark). (Greijer & Wenke, 2023)
- In the USA and Iceland, buildings used for Barnahus / Barnahus-like centres often resemble homes. (Landberg, 2023)
- Some countries have opted to set up these centres within existing structures. In Finland, Barnahus are located within hospitals. (Greijer & Wenke, 2023).

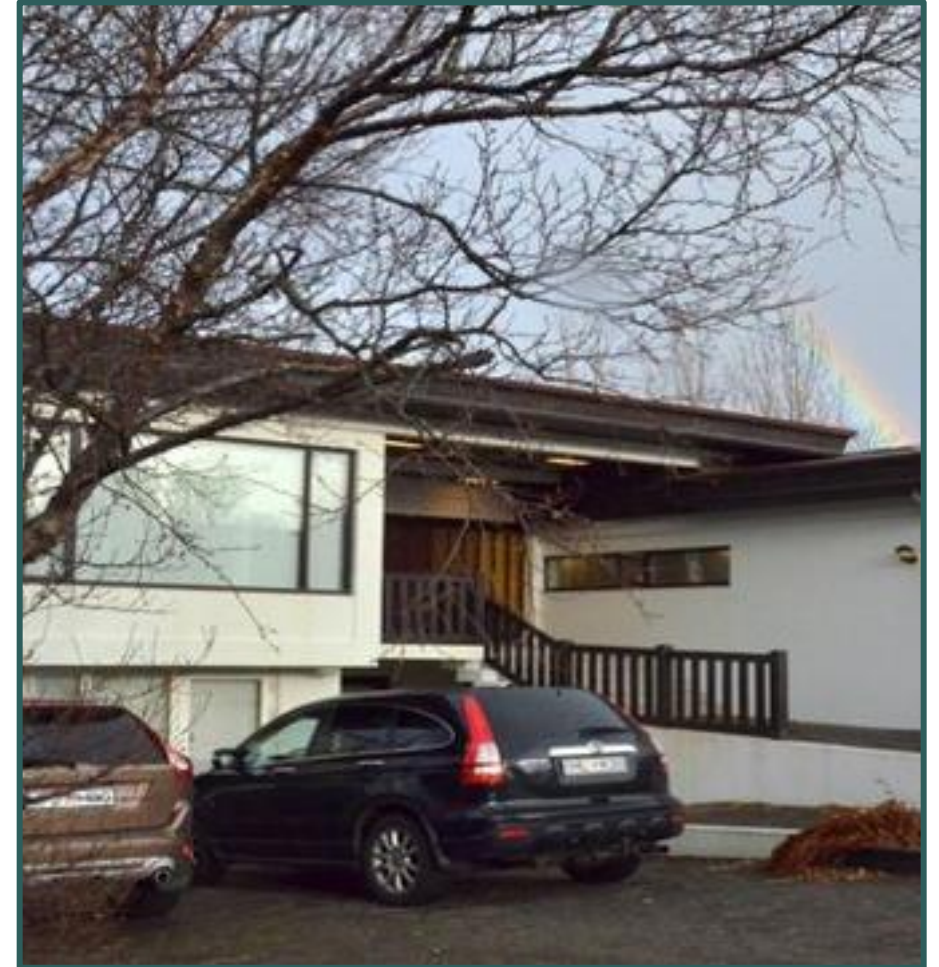


Photo: An example of a standalone building. [Barnahus, Iceland](#)

SPECIFIC USE OR REPURPOSED

- Utilizing existing buildings can be cost-effective, but constructing new, purpose-built buildings may be quicker (WDM Architects, 2016). In Sedwick County CAC, locating and renovating the elementary school took several years. (WDM Architects, 2016).

The renovations in a nutshell:

- Renovated interior finishes and partitioned large classrooms into office areas. Repaired exterior lintels and constructed a new drive-up canopy.
- Upgraded mechanical systems, installed new electrical and lighting systems, and added an elevator.
- Created new parking lots, improved vehicular circulation, enhanced landscaping, and upgraded playground security with new equipment.



Photos: Before and after photos. An example of a repurposed building (reception desk) [Child Advocacy Centre Sedgwick County, Kansas, USA](#)

VISIBLE OR HIDDEN

- The location of Barnahus is not publicly available in every country.
- The Slovenian national guidelines state “The location and sign-posting of Barnahus are discreet” (Council of Europe, 2019).
- The picture shows an example of a Barnahus in a discrete location. The building is unobtrusive, and there is purposefully little signposting.



Photo: Peter Sitkei, Hearing and Therapy Centre, Budapest, Hungary

VISIBLE OR HIDDEN

- Swedish Barnahus are usually visible in buildings resembling public facilities or large office towers (Landberg, 2023).
- The exterior design of Swedish Barnahus has been criticised for lacking child-friendly features (Landberg, 2023).



Photo: A clearly marked and visible Barnahus.
[Barnahus Linköping](#), Sweden

INTERNAL DESIGN - GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Child-friendly atmosphere - children feel safe and are recognised not only as victims but also as children (Greijer and Wenke, 2023).
- Children feel welcomed and supported in a difficult situation (Stefansen, 2017).
- In Norway, child-friendliness became a principle integrated into the interior structure of office buildings. (Stefansen, 2017)
- Ways to achieve child-friendliness (Haldorsson, 2019)
 - Safety
 - Lighting and ventilation
 - Colour and brightness
 - Soundproofing



Photo: An example of an arrival/ waiting area. Child and Youth Advocacy Centre ([CAYC](#)), [Kelowna](#), Canada.

*Note the giant teddy

INTERNAL DESIGN – CHILD FRIENDLINESS AND ACHIEVING BALANCE

- Establishing the appropriate balance between a functional and supportive environment is essential.
- The environment “should be neutral, preferably warm and caring, but not too stimulating for play and fantasy” (Stefansen, 2017, p. 3).
- The American Zero Abuse Project's forensic interview setup document suggests that while sitting in a beanbag chair may be engaging for children, it can be distracting for the interviewer and problematic for sound recording (Russell, 2019).
- Some centres provide WiFi access and electronic devices (Haldorsson, 2019).

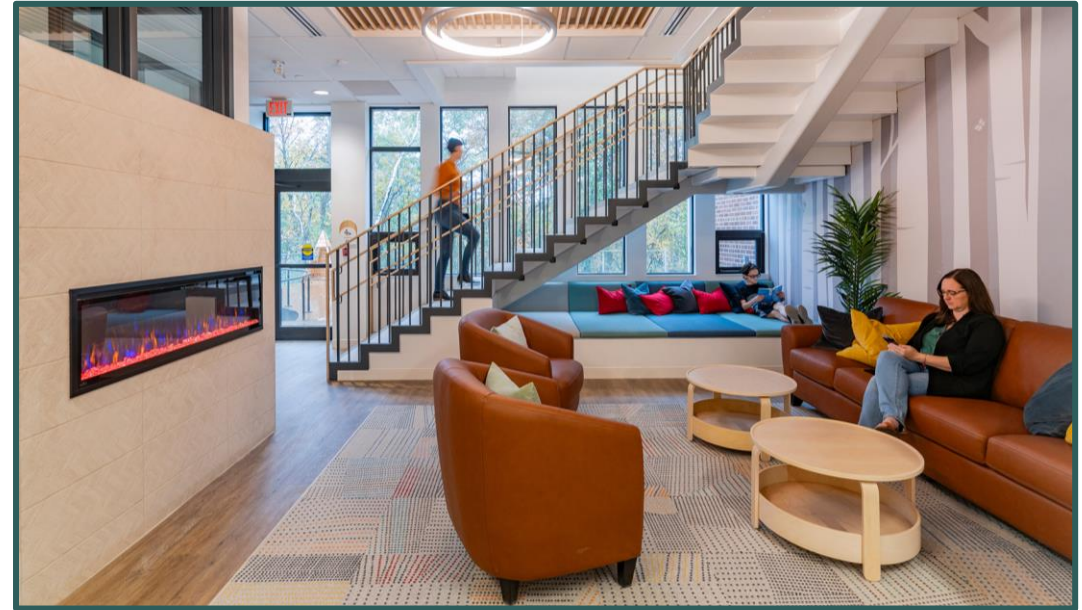


Photo: [Toba Centre for Children and Youth](#), Canada

INTERNAL DESIGN – TOYS (1)

- The Linköping Barnahus in Sweden provides age-appropriate toys and games to occupy children of all ages, with most stored in drawers for use as needed. While toys can be given for comfort, Swedish Barnahus generally avoid giving gifts after police interviews to prevent them from being seen as rewards for disclosures.
- In Norwegian Barnahus, toys serve as tools to facilitate communication with children. Picture books, puzzles, and drawing materials are often used during the first session to help the child open up. These items also assist in assessing the child's understanding of quantity, size, colours, and shapes. The interviewer and counsellor can evaluate the child's cognitive abilities by discussing neutral topics using these props (Johansson et al., 2017).
- Children involved in Barnahus design projects discussed the recommended toys list, they suggested including stress-related toys and teddy bears as furry animals (Promise Barnahus Network, 2021).

INTERNAL DESIGN – TOYS (2)

An American Child Advocacy Centre outlines the importance of dividing toy access before and after interviews.

- Before the interview, children should have access to materials and toys that reflect the diverse needs and interests of the populations served in the setting. This includes toys, games, books, and colouring pages representing the children and families' various cultures and ethnicities.
- It is recommended to avoid providing toys and activities in the waiting room that resemble techniques used during the interview process. For example, dolls for play or staff engaging the child in drawings of faces or conversations about the child's family should be excluded.
- After the interview, they recommend allowing children to decompress with substantive toys, teddy bears, and games. However, they also state that these toys "may be perceived as an inducement or reward for a child's report of abuse" (Russell, 2019).

INTERNAL DESIGN – AGE-APPROPRIATE SPACES

- Standard 4 of the Barnahus Quality Standards emphasises creating a child-friendly environment with age-appropriate furniture in waiting rooms for children and families. It also highlights the need for separate waiting areas to ensure privacy and safety, especially when required by law enforcement for forensic purposes. (Haldorsson, 2019).
- Recognising the importance of age-appropriate spaces, there are two waiting rooms in the Icelandic Barnahus.
 - One is designed for pre-schoolers and young children
 - One is for pre-teens and teenagers (Haldorsson, 2019).
- Some Barnahus / Barnahus-like centres also create separate waiting spaces for adults



Photos: Two different waiting areas. [Barnahus, Iceland](#)

INTERNAL DESIGN - USE OF COLOUR AND IMAGES

- Norwegian Barnahus uses bright colours, the floor is softly coloured, and pillows and blankets are used (Stefansen, 2017).
- Colours enhance the room's appeal, but overly vibrant shades like bright red can distract viewers from video recordings (Haldorsson, 2019).
- The images from a Canadian CYAC showcase the use of colours and visuals in the waiting room.

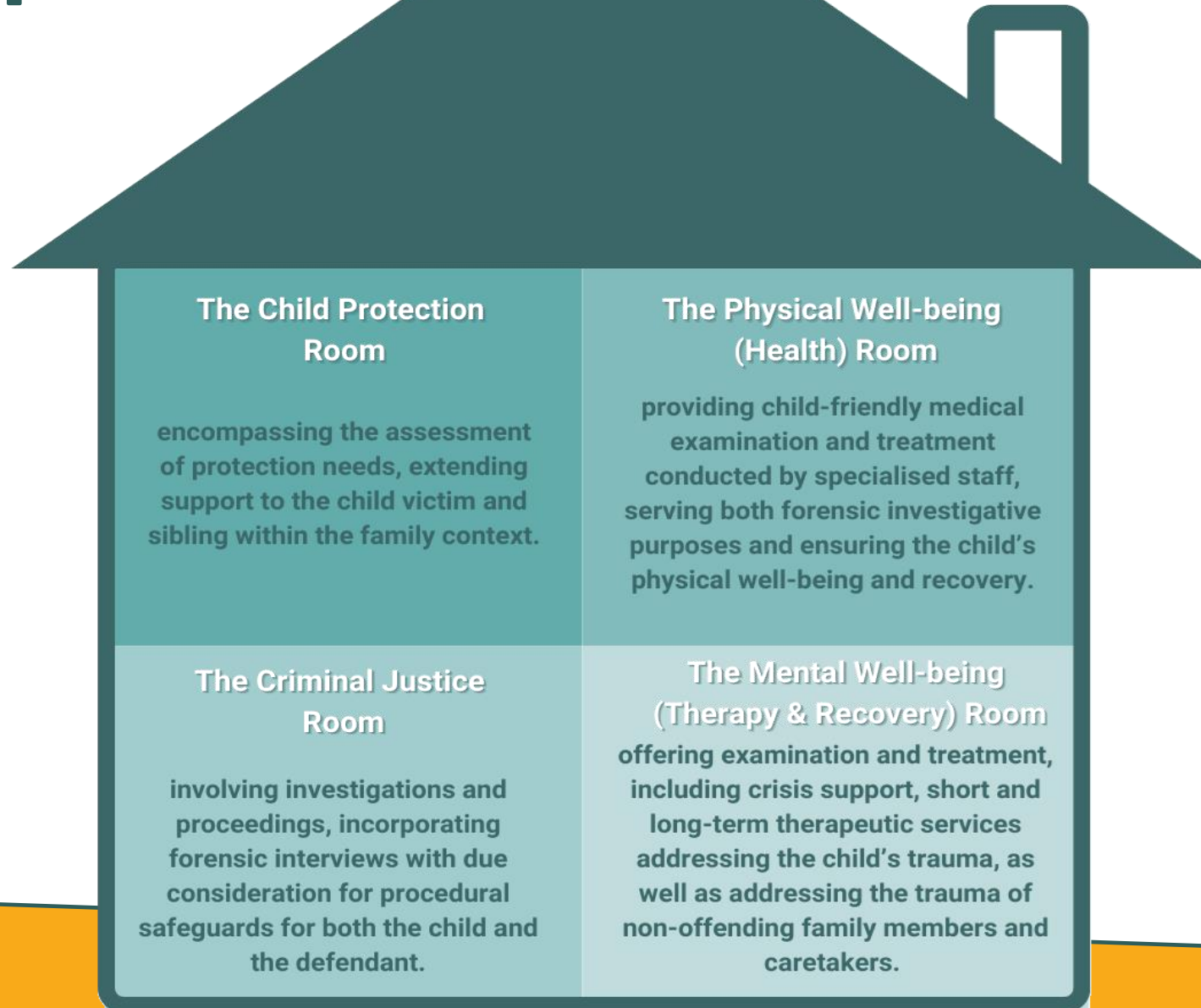


Photo: [Toba Centre for Children and Youth](#), Canada

INTERNAL DESIGN – SOUNDPROOFING

- According to the National Standards of Accreditation (USA), private meeting areas must be physically separated and soundproofed to prevent conversations from being overheard (National Children's Alliance, 2023).
- All areas where confidential conversations take place should be soundproofed. This would include the interview rooms and medical assessment rooms, for example.
- Some centres incorporate soundproofing materials in or on the walls during construction or renovation. Others use stereos or sound machines in the rooms to help block outside noise (Haldorsson, 2019).
- When designing furniture for child-friendly centres, it is important to remember that interviews may be video recorded for potential court use. The recordings must be clear enough for judges and juries to hear and understand everything said during the interview. Therefore, when designing soundproof forensic interview rooms, it is crucial to consider the acoustics of the seating materials (Russell, 2019).
- Sound can be reduced by using tiled and portable carpets. These carpets can be easily replaced and cleaned, which helps remove dust and germs (WDM Architects, 2023).

ONE ROOF



Four Rooms, Adapted from
the Barnahus Network (2021)

FOUR ROOMS

The Criminal Justice Room

In Barnahus / Barnahus-like centres the physical well-being room might include:

- A forensic interview room
- An observation room
- A secure recording/data storage / server room

The Child Protection Room

- The Child Protection Room is usually considered more in the overall design rather than having a specific physical room.
- The interior design of Barnahus / Barnahus-like centres should aim to create a safe environment
- A dedicated building and low-visibility location may reduce the risk of the child being identified as a victim

FOUR ROOMS

The Physical Well-Being Room

In Barnabus / Barnabus-like services the physical well-being room might include:

- A dedicated medical suite or assessment room*, located within a dedicated building
- A dedicated medical suite or assessment room*, located within a general medical facility, hospital or police station
- A non-dedicated medical suite or assessment room* within a general medical facility, hospital or police station

*The term medical suite is used to describe several connected rooms used for medical purposes/ examination, whereas the term assessment room is used to describe a single room used for medical purposes/ examination.

FOUR ROOMS

The Mental Well-being (Therapy & Recovery) Room

- The Mental Well-being (Therapy & Recovery) Room is usually considered more in the overall design rather than having a specific physical room.
- In the Swedish Linköping Barnahus, silent stress-relief items can be brought to interviews. (Haldorsson, 2019)
- Designated entrances may help minimise exposure to triggers or potentially traumatising environments (Newman et al., 2005).

ZONES

Rather than considering four rooms, another way of considering the one-roof model, can be seen in the London-based Lighthouse that uses the concept of four zones. The four-zones are considered crucial in ensuring a supportive and secure environment for children, young people, and their families (The Lighthouse, 2021).

1. **Public Zone:** The public zone serves as the initial point of contact for children, young people, their families and staff. It aims to convey a safe and welcoming atmosphere, so the design focuses on warmth and homeliness, utilising warm colours and comfortable furniture.
2. **Service Users Zone:** This zone facilitates interactions between staff and service users through interview rooms, therapy rooms, and activity spaces. The facility is accessible to individuals with disabilities and includes child-sized furniture tailored to support therapeutic needs.
3. **Staff Zone:** This staff workspace includes offices, manager's rooms, breakout areas, and meeting rooms. Designed for adaptability, it supports daily team activities and fosters collaboration by proximity to shared areas. Access to essential facilities like IT support, restrooms, and kitchen amenities is crucial for staff needs.
4. **Secured Area:** The secured area is for authorised staff with the necessary clearance. It includes the control room, IT room, and storage areas for classified work, highlighting the need for controlled access and restricted entry to maintain security.

THE PHYSICAL WELL-BEING ROOM

- Many Barnahus facilities in Europe conduct forensic medical examinations on site.
- Norway also offers forensic dental examinations.
- In some countries (such as Finland) specialised forensic experts perform these examinations in hospitals rather than on site.
- Note the use of colour, images and the provision of toys (2nd picture) within the example given.



Photo: Medical Room
Childhoodhaus,
[Heidelberg, Germany](#)



Photo on the left: An example of an on-site medical assessment room, [Linköping, Sweden](#)

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

- The Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Centre (USA) has written a medical toolkit for CACs.
- The toolkit describes the setting up of the medical program, the professional development of medical providers, and the quality improvement expectations. It also contains a list of the medical equipment that is compulsory for examinations.
- The list contains information on:
 - ✓ Photo documentation equipment
 - ✓ General equipment
 - ✓ Additional supplies
 - ✓ Storage protocol
- The list is available here: [Medical Exam Room Equipment List](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROOM – FORENSIC INTERVIEW

- In forensic interviews, children communicate in three ways: language, behaviour, and emotions. The forensic interview setting should allow the interviewer to understand all these simultaneously (Russell, 2019).
- Forensic interview rooms should be:
 - comfortable and child-friendly (Haldorsson, 2019; Russell, 2019).
 - furnished and decorated to avoid distraction (Haldorsson, 2019; Russell, 2019)
 - soundproofed (Haldorsson, 2019)



Photo: An example of a forensic interview room. Child Advocacy Centre [Galveston, USA](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROOMS - FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

- According to the Barnahus standards, all interviews should be audio-visually recorded. The camera should be set up with good-quality audiovisual equipment that can follow the child and capture hand movements if the child is drawing or showing something.
- Note the recording equipment shown in the photo.
- Recordings of interviews are stored in a safe location with restricted access. (Haldorsson, 2019).

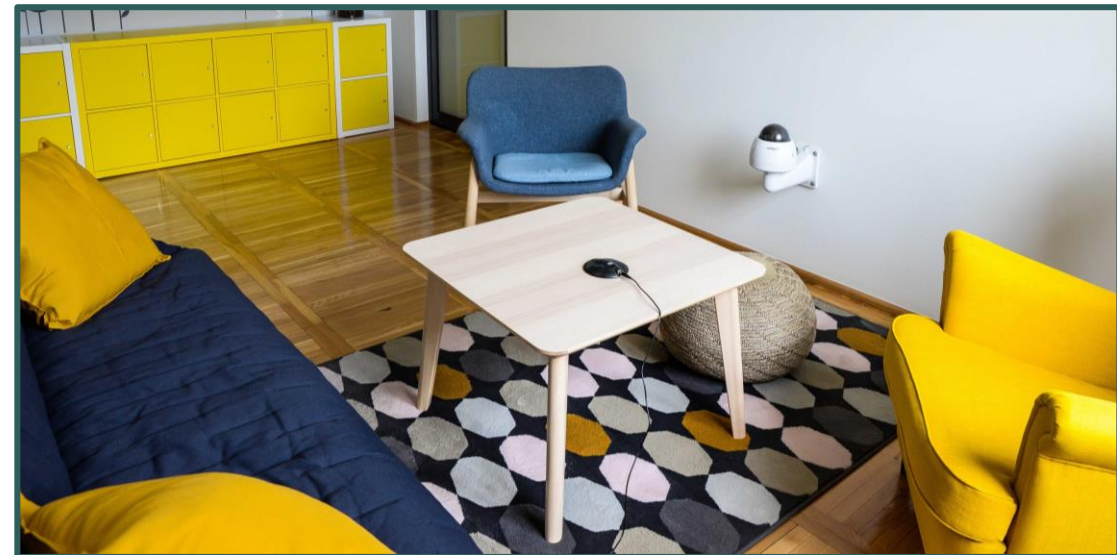


Photo: An example of a forensic interview room. [Barnahus, Głogów, Poland](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROOM – FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

An example from the Hungarian Hearing and Therapy Centres:

- Four cameras are installed in the corners of the room.
- Equipped with advanced capabilities, capture both video and audio.
- Minimalist design to avoid distracting attention.
- Graphic design elements tailored to all ages and genders of children.
- Furnishings strictly follow police interview room protocol
- Carpet on the other side of the wall: designed for soundproofing, ensuring a quiet environment.



Photo: An example of a forensic interview room. Hearing and Therapy Centre, Budapest, Hungary

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROOM - OBSERVATION ROOMS

- Observation rooms offer space where professionals, judges etc. can observe interviews in real-time.
- A Croatian observation room situated within a dedicated Barnahus is shown in the photo provided.
- In Norway, the interviews are observed via a direct video link in the "co-hearing room", which should not be placed next to interview room. (Stefansen, 2017).



Photo: An example of an observation room. [Barnahus, Zagreb, Croatia](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROOM - OBSERVATION ROOMS



- The spatial arrangement separating interview rooms and observation rooms is often deliberate. The separation prevents the child from accidentally encountering the professionals involved in the Barnahus case before the interview (Stefansen, 2017).
- Such encounters could lead to additional anxiety or distress for the child, potentially compromising the quality of the interview and the accuracy of their testimony (Stefansen, 2017).
- A clear physical boundary aims to create a safe and focused environment where the child can speak freely and openly about their experiences (Stefansen, 2017).

INCLUSIVE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Inclusion is considered an integral part of all standards, guidance, and legislation pertaining to Barnahus and Barnahus-like centres.
- Barnahus is designed to provide a safe and welcoming environment for children of all ages.
- CAC/CYACs believe that children and families from diverse backgrounds are more likely to feel welcomed, heard, and engaged in their healing journey with the support of staff and multidisciplinary team (MDT) members if there is an inclusive design.

- Age and Generation
- National Origin, Culture & Ethnicity
- Spirituality
- Socioeconomic Status
- Different Physical Abilities / Disability
- Learning/Communication Skills and Styles
- Gender Identity/Expression
- Sexual Orientation
- Family Structure

INCLUSIVE DESIGN - CONSIDERATIONS

- **Age and Generation:** Age-appropriate spaces, consideration of signage and communication about the space. Toilets, changing spaces and medical examination spaces that are considered accessible and appropriate for different ages.
- **National Origin, Culture & Ethnicity:** Cultural appropriateness of the space, whether the space feels welcoming, shared or former use of space, consideration of signage and communication about the space, toilets, changing spaces and medical examination spaces that are considered accessible and culturally appropriate.
- **Spirituality:** Consideration of prayer spaces, shared or former use of space.
- **Socioeconomic Status:** Accessibility of the space, consideration of use of public transport, financial barriers to accessing the space such as road tariffs or parking costs.
- **Physical Ability / Disability:** Consideration of accessibility for blind/ deaf individuals and those with varied mobility needs. Toilets, changing spaces and medical examination spaces that are considered accessible for those with different physical abilities, consideration of signage and communication about the space.

INCLUSIVE DESIGN - CONSIDERATIONS

Toilets, changing spaces and medical examination spaces that are considered accessible and appropriate for individuals:

- with different **gender identities/expressions**
- of different **sexual orientations**
- with different **learning/communication skills and styles**
- with different **family structures** (e.g. nappy changing spaces in men's toilets).

Consideration of signage and communication about the space.

INCLUSIVE DESIGN FOR NEURODIVERSITY



Minimised sensory input in the environment



Clear and defined use of space



Transition and preview areas



Management of privacy and environmental elements



Direct views to points of interest



Emphasising individual uniqueness and a sense of place

CHILD PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN

- Children were involved in consultations about Barnahus services and shared what they believe makes spaces child-friendly (Promise Barnahus Network, 2021).
 - Easy access: short distance to walk through the service.
 - Child-friendly physical spaces
 - A dedicated space/room/area to meet with the child.
 - A dedicated waiting area for children.
 - Mascots used for signage throughout Barnahus.

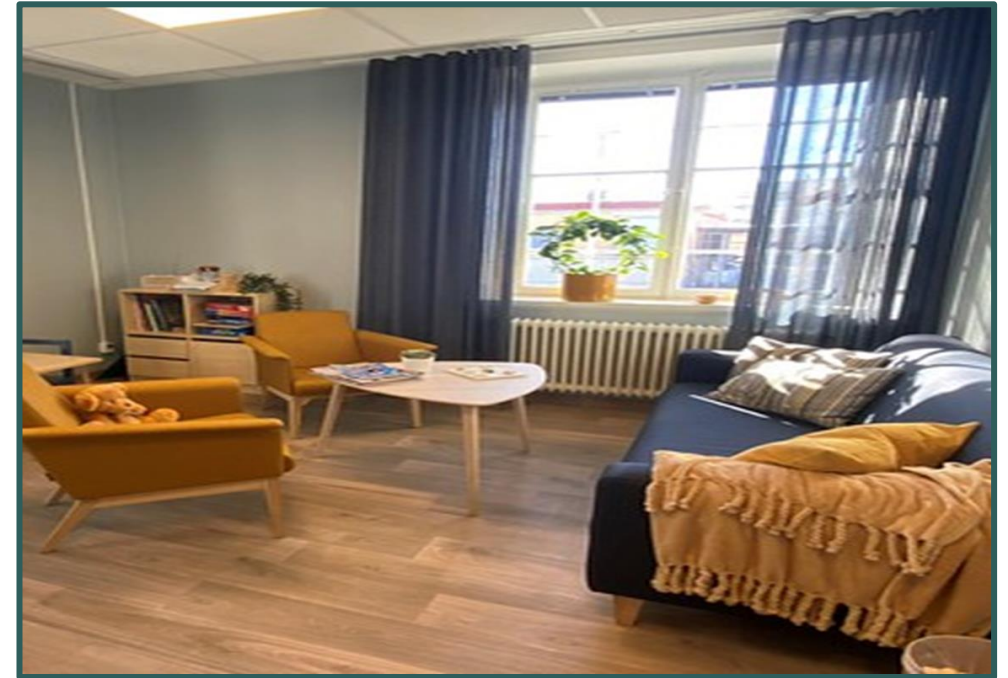


Photo: An example of a waiting area. [Barnahus Linköping, Sweden](#)

CHILD PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN

- Child participation is a guiding principle of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, laid out in Article 12 (United Nations 1989). Participation is also highlighted in the Barnahus Quality Standards (Haldorsson, 2019).
- Children in Albania, Ireland, England, Croatia, Bulgaria, Estonia, and Spain provided feedback on their participation in Barnahus and Barnahus-like centres. Many European countries actively sought to ensure children's voices were considered throughout their journey in Barnahus (Promise Barnahus Network, 2021).
- It is noted that children's participation was often sought in co-planning and design through youth advisory boards and/or youth groups (Promise Barnahus Network, 2021).
- The Bulgarian "Protection Zone Centres" have developed checklists focusing on Barnahus's child participation in case management. These are used for planning and implementing forensic interviews and therapy. They include questions designed to ensure children have space, a voice, an audience, and influence in their case management. The checklists also address aspects related to the arrival of children and the overall design of the Barnahus facility: professionals should show the child the place, show the child around the different rooms, explain how they work with children in the rooms, and introduce colleagues (Barnahus, 2023).

THANK YOU

Viktoria Sebhelyi,
Marianiki Vlachou
Addy Adelaine

<https://www.cycj.org.uk/>



PHOTO CREDITS

Source	Year	Link	Page
Barnahus Quality Standards - Photos from the insides of child friendly justice MD/IA services	2020	PROMISE-Barnahus-Quality-Standards.pdf or Barnahus Quality Standards - Photos from the insides of child friendly justice MD/IA services Flickr	15, 18, 22, 30, 35, 36, 37, 41
Number Ten Architectural Group (Toba Centre for Children and Youth)	2023	https://www.numberten.com/project/toba-centre-for-children-and-youth/	14, 20, 23
Child Advocacy Centre in Glogow, Poland	N.D.	Zobacz CPD – SZANSA	33
Child Advocacy Centre of Kelowna	2009	How You Helped Support the Child Advocacy Center of Kelowna - Jillian Harris Design Inc.	19
Child Advocacy Centre, Sedgwick County, Kansas, USA – WDM	2016	https://wdmarchitects.com/case-studies/child-advocacy-center-of-sedgwick-county/	16
Forensic Medical Interventions Promise 2	2021	Medical-Examination-and-Treatment-in-Barnahus-2021-FINAL.pdf	30
Hearing and Therapy Centre, Budapest, Hungary (OGYSZ)	2024	Copyrights by OGYSZ, Hungary	17, 34
Take a Tour of Child Advocacy Center – Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County	N.D.	Take a Tour of Child Advocacy Center – Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County	32
Barnahus Network	2021	The multidisciplinary team - Barnahus Network	25

REFERENCES

- Barnahus (2023). Involving children in case management; Experience and ideas from children and practitioners in Bulgaria, Available: <https://barnahus.eu/2021/01/05/experience-and-ideas-from-children-andpractitioners-in-bulgaria/> [Accessed 03/01/2025].
- Barnahus Network (2021) The Four Rooms. Available: <https://www.barnahus.eu/en/competence-centre/> [Accessed 20/07/2024].
- Barnahus Network (2025) Welcome to the Barnahus Network. Available: <https://www.barnahus.eu> [Accessed 13/09/2024].
- Council of Europe (2010) Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice. Council of Europe. Available: [https://CM/Del/Dec\(2010\)1098/10.2abc-app6](https://CM/Del/Dec(2010)1098/10.2abc-app6) [Accessed 22/06/2024].
- Greijer, S. and Wenke, D. (2023) Barnahus: a European journey; Findings of a mapping study on multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models responding to violence against children Available: <https://rm.coe.int/barnahus-a-european-journey-mapping-study-on-multidisciplinary-and-int/1680acc3c3> [Accessed 04/06/2024].
- Haldorsson, O. L. (2019) The Barnahus Quality Standards. Promise: Barnahus Network. 978-91-980572-9-4. Available: <https://www.barnahus.eu/en/the-barnahus-quality-standards/> [Accessed 06/03/2024].
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland and The Care Inspectorate. (2023). Bairns' Hoose Standards. Available: https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/Barnahus_Bairns_Hoose/Bairns_Hoose_Barnahus_childrens_rights_and_wellbeing_impact_assessment.pdf [Accessed 06/03/2024].
- Johansson, S., Stefansen, K., Bakketeig, E. and Kaldal, A. (2017). Collaborating against child abuse: exploring the Nordic Barnahus model. Available <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-58388-4> [Accessed 05/04/2024].
- National Children's Alliance (2023). National Standards of Accreditation for Children's Advocacy Centers, 2023 <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2023-Optional-Standards-Book.pdf> [Accessed: 01/15/2024].

REFERENCES

- Newman, B. S., Dannenfelser, P. L., and Pendleton, D. (2005). Child abuse investigations: Reasons for using child advocacy centres and suggestions for improvement." *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal* 22: 165-181.
- Promise Barnahus Network (2021). Mapping child participation in Barnahus in Europe; Survey results 2021. Implementing the Barnahus Quality Standards throughout Europe. Available: <https://promise-mapping-participation-barnahus-finalfinal.pdf> [Accessed 05/09/2024].
- Russell, A. (2019) "Forensic Interview Room Set-up. Available: <https://www.zeroabuseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NCPTC-Forensic-Interview-Room-Set-up.pdf> [Accessed 15/01/2025].
- Stefansen, K. (2017). Staging a Caring Atmosphere: Child-Friendliness in Barnahus as a Multidimensional Phenomenon. *Collaborating Against Child Abuse*. S. Johansson, Stefansen, K., Bakketeig, E., Kaldal, A., Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. Available: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-58388-4_2 [Accessed 05/04/2024].
- The Lighthouse. (2021). Lighthouse Camden Child House Design Guide. Available: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/design_guide_final_amended.pdf [Accessed 14/07/2024].
- Trauma Informed Design Society. What is trauma-informed design? <https://www.traumainformeddesign.org/> [Accessed 14/12/2024].
- United Nations (1989). The Convention on the Rights of the Child. <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/> [Accessed 24/08/2024].
- United Nations (2006). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Available: <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd> [Accessed 15/06/2024].
- US Department of Justice (2010). 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Available: <https://archive.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.pdf> [Accessed 10/08/2024].
- WDM Architects (2016). Community architecture, Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County, WDM ARCHITECTS. 2024. Available: <https://wdmarchitects.com/projects/child-advocacy-center-of-sedgwick-county/> [Accessed 20/10/2024].