

## Checklist 1: Key Aspects of Architecture for Young Children

1. Is the architecture interesting and engaging? Is the building designed from a child's imaginative perspective as well as that of an adult?
2. Is the architecture visible to its users? If the children can see how the building is put together, the very act of discovery can elicit greater awareness of their surroundings.
3. Is the building designed with the scale of a child in mind? There should be child-orientated features at the correct height in order for young children to feel comfortable and to help them feel the environment is theirs.
4. Is there enough space? Minimum space requirements may not be sufficient.
5. Do the children have a range of spaces that will support different activities? From boisterous physical activities to quiet contemplative ones, the spaces must be designed specifically to support the needs of the children and their curriculum.
6. Are the routes through the building clear and uncluttered? Children should understand the way in which different spaces are connected within the building and be able to use them at all times.
7. Is the outdoor space readily accessible? There should be lots of things for the children to do outdoors.
8. Do children feel safe and secure? Make the building welcoming and friendly yet secure from unwanted visitors. Bear in mind the need for inner security between different parts of zones of the building.
9. Do you understand the architecture? Be part of the development process through effective consultation strategies.
10. Is the architecture flexible and extendible? It will undoubtedly need to change and evolve with the programme.

**Source:** Building for young children – Mark Dudek