

Room Familiarisation



What is Room familiarisation?

A technique used to provide a student with a systematic procedure for independence. Exploring an unfamiliar room and developing a clear understanding of the spatial relationship of objects within the room



Stages

There are many stages to room familiarisation such as:

- Starting point and information
- Pre-cane skills
- Perimeter search
- Obstacles
- Mapping
- Key point location



Starting point and information

- Information given:

- Location
- Function
- Size
- Shape

- Starting point

Walk into the room, close the door, CYP to stand with back against the wall nearest to the door handle.



Pre-cane skills

All pre-cane skills are used during the room familiarisation process, such as:

- Trailing
- Upper body protection
- Squaring off
- Lower body protection
- Narrow space



Perimeter search

The perimeter search involves the following:

- Initial tour of whole perimeter
 - trailing and body protection
 - Basic description of main objects encountered
 - Naming walls

After the initial tour continue to use the above methods but teach one wall at a time and always return to starting point.



Obstacles

You may think it is better to move obstacles or guide the CYP around them but they need to learn about obstacles.

Obstacles can be useful so they need to encounter them to help them be more aware of potential hazards in different environments.

Identify hazardous obstacles or create a landmark to give CYP prior warning.



Mapping

There are three different types of mapping, mental, hand and tactile. Mental and hand are the more commonly used as they are easier than tactile maps.

- **Mental mapping:** Using visual imagery or your imagination to get a picture of the room and features.
- **Hand mapping:** A map drawn using a finger on the CYP's palm. Make sure the map is drawn from the CYPVI's perspective, not yours, and their hand is orientated to the room



Key point location

Key point location are furniture and features that have fixed postions.

- Key points could included:
 - Teacher's desk
 - Pupil's desk
 - Coat pegs
 - Sink
- Also learn key point locations from the starting point.
- Once confident the CYP will often go from key point to key point without having to go to the starting point.



Summary

As you can see there are many areas to cover when teaching room familiarisation. The PowerPoint is designed to support you to understand the process and techniques that a Habilitation Specialist uses in this area of work.

It is not intended that schools or settings employ these techniques without first speaking to a Habilitation Specialist.

