**Autumn 2 Meaningful Homework – Environmental factors**

**Task:**

Watch an episode of a soap TV programme of your choice i.e. Hollyoaks, Coronation Street, Eastenders etc. Using the different environmental factors studied within lesson, write a description of the factors which are present within the episode and how these might impact on a child’s development. You then need to choose one environmental factor and write about it in depth, showing your detailed knowledge and understanding of the impact.

**Guidance:**

- Remember the environmental factors studied are; Housing including the positive aspects of housing (warm, dry, own space), housing needs (damp housing, overcrowding), temporary accommodation, access to a garden, space to play and home environment including having stable support from parents, contact with extended family, living with parental conflict, parents mental or physical health, effects of exposure to drugs, alcohol or smoking.

- Identify if any of the above factors are present within the episode and describe the impact that they would have on a child’s development

- Choose one of the factors from above and explain in depth how it would impact upon a child’s development.

**Success criteria:**

- I have identified all of the environmental factors which could affect a child’s development from the episode

- I have described how each of these factors could impact upon a child’s development

- I have chosen one environmental factor and discussed in depth how this would impact upon a child’s development.

**WAGOLL**

In Hollyoaks, there are a number of environmental factors which can negatively impact the development of the children. Environmental factors which can negatively impact the development of children are damp houses, overcrowding, not having access to a garden or a safe place to play. If children do not have stable support from their parents, if they live in a house or family where there is conflict, with parents who have social or mental health issues or are exposed to drug and alcohol issues, this can also present issues to their overall development.

In Hollyoaks, the McQueen family is known for having an overcrowded house. The McQueens are a large, extended family, and their home often feels cramped due to the many family members living under one roof. This situation frequently leads to dramatic and comedic moments on the show, reflecting the chaotic and lively dynamics of the household. The crowded household can lead to a lack of personal space and privacy, which might affect the children's ability to concentrate on schoolwork or have quiet time for themselves. Overcrowding often results in heightened stress and frequent conflicts among family members, potentially creating a stressful environment for children. Given the crowded living conditions, the home may also lack sufficient space for children to play safely indoors

The McQueens frequently deal with dramatic and sometimes traumatic events, including crime, addiction, and relationship problems, which can adversely affect the children’s mental and emotional health. This means that the children often face and have to overcome adversities which on a positive note can also foster resilience and coping skills in children, preparing them for future challenges. The McQueen family is known for being close-knit and loyal to each other despite the various challenges they face, including financial struggles, legal issues, and personal conflicts. The McQueens often demonstrate strong family bonds and a willingness to support each other through difficult times, providing emotional support and protection. The McQueen family frequently faces external and internal challenges that can impact their ability to provide stable support. Issues such as legal troubles, financial instability, and personal drama can create a stressful environment. These challenges sometimes lead to situations where the children are exposed to adversity, but the family’s close relationships help them navigate these difficulties.

Several characters from the McQueen family in *Hollyoaks* have faced drug or alcohol issues, significantly impacting the children in the family. Mercedes has struggled with both alcohol and drug addiction over the years. Her substance abuse has led to periods of instability and neglect. For instance, her son, Bobby, has experienced emotional distress and insecurity due to her erratic behavior and the consequences of her addictions. John Paul has dealt with alcohol addiction. His struggles have affected his ability to be a stable and present father to his son, Matthew. This has likely contributed to emotional and psychological challenges for Matthew. While not as prominently featured with addiction issues as other members, Nana has had her moments of excessive drinking. Her behavior can sometimes add to the chaotic and unstable environment, indirectly affecting the children in her care.