

Literacy Environment Checklist

This checklist can be completed when no children are present, ideally before the children arrive. As classroom observers fill out this checklist, they become familiar with details of the environment. The careful attention paid to the environment helps observers complete the Classroom Observation; therefore, the checklist should be done prior to making the Classroom Observation.

Book Area

1. Is an area set aside just for book reading?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

If this area is used for other activities, such as for circle time or as a block area, score this item NO.

2. Is the area where books are located orderly and inviting?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

Are the books displayed on a bookshelf or bookcase? Are they oriented properly (front covers or spines facing out and right-side up)? Are they neatly organized!

3. Does the area where books are located have soft materials?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

Are there pillows, cushions, or comfortable furniture (e.g., couch) in the area so that children can look at books comfortably?

Book Area Total	<input type="text"/>
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Book Selection

4. Do the books in the classroom range in difficulty level?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

This item refers to all books that are accessible to children, not only those books in the book area. Do some books have no words or very few words per page, whereas others have one or two paragraphs per page? Do some books include simple language, whereas others incorporate more sophisticated vocabulary?

5. How many books are easily available to children?	Fewer than 15	16-25	26+
Circle one:	1	2	3

Count all books that are accessible to children, not only those in book area.

6. How many books convey factual information?	0	1-2	3-5	6+
Circle one:	0	1	2	3

Count all books that are accessible to children, not only those in book area. Include science- or math-related books and social studies books or books about other cultures, as well as health-related books.

7. Are there three or more books related to the current theme?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

The current theme should be evident through classroom displays, activities, and teacher conversations with children. If you are unsure about the current theme, ask the classroom teacher.

Book Selection Total	<input type="text"/>
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Writing Around the Room

19. How many varieties of teacher dictation are on display in the classroom?	0	1-2	3-5	6+
Circle one:	0	1	2	3

This item is designed to determine the variety, rather than the number, of dictations. If the display of teacher dictation consists of work from a one-time, teacher-led activity completed by all children, count it as one example. If a single display consists of unique or spontaneous work from each child or the works were completed over a longer period of time (2+ weeks), count each item as a separate example.

20. How many charts, big books, or other evidence of full-group literacy are there in the classroom?	0	1-2	3-5	6+
Circle one:	0	1	2	3

Include teacher-created charts that show evidence of group discussion (e.g., My Favorite Color, Our Trip to the Aquarium).

21. How many varieties of children's writing are on display in the classroom?	0	1-2	3-5	6+
Circle one:	0	1	2	3

This item is designed to determine the variety, rather than the number, of child writing samples on display. If the display of children's writing consists of work from a one-time, teacher-led activity completed by all children, count it as one example. If a single display consists of unique or spontaneous work from each child, or the works were completed over a longer period of time (2+ weeks), count each item as a separate example.

22a. Are there writing tools in the dramatic play or block area?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

For example, are there paper, pens/pencils, a chalkboard, a typewriter, and so forth?

22b. Are there props that prompt children to write in the dramatic play or block area?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

If there are no writing tools in the dramatic play or block area (i.e., you scored item 22a NO), then mark this item NO. Props include items such as clipboards, telephones, menus, and so forth.

23. Are there alphabet puzzles available for children's use?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

Alphabet puzzles must include all letters of the alphabet. Puzzles must be available without adult assistance.

24. Are there puzzles with words available for children's use?	YES	NO
Circle one:	1	0

Puzzles with words must include several short words, and meanings must be clearly indicated by pictures. Puzzles must be available without adult assistance.

Writing Around the Room Total