

### Early Language and Literacy Classroom Checklist

Center: Mineral Point Preschool/Elementary Date: 2/17/10  
 Classroom Staff: Mrs. Busch School Observer: Lindsey Arhart

#### Book Area

1. Is there an area set aside for reading?	Yes	No
Circle One: <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0
<i>If this is an area used for other activities, such as for circle time or as block area, score this item NO.</i>		

2. Is the area where books are located orderly and inviting?	Yes	No
Circle One: <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0
<i>Are the books displayed on a bookshelf or a bookcase? Are they oriented properly (front covers or spines facing out and right-side up)? Are they neatly organized?</i>		

3. Does the area where book are located have soft materials?	Yes	No
Circle One: <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0
<i>Are there pillows, cushions, or comfortable furniture (e.g. couch) in the area so that children can look at books comfortably?</i>		

**Book Area Total** 3

#### Book Selection

4. Do the books in the classroom range in difficulty level?	Yes	No
Circle One: <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0
<i>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, while others incorporate more sophisticated vocabulary?</i>		

5. How many books are available to the children?	<u>Less than 15</u>	16-25	26+
Circle One: <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	2	3
<i>Count all books that are accessible to children, not only those in book area.</i>			

6. How many books convey factual information?	0	1-2	<u>3-5</u>	6
Circle One: <u>2</u>	0	1	<u>2</u>	3
<i>Count all books that are accessible to children, not only those in book area. Include science- or math-related books and social studies or books about other cultures, as well as health-related books.</i>				

7. Are there three or more books related to current theme?	Yes	No
Circle One: <u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0
<i>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 teacher.</i>		

**Book Selection Total** 5

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 Classroom Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Observer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Book Use

How many books are easily available for children's use in the following areas? Only count books if the area in question is separate from the book area. For example, if the block area, circle "0" for the numbers of books in the block area.

8. How many books are available in the science area?	0	1-3	4+
Circle One:	0	1	2

9. How many books are available in the dramatic play area?	0	1-3	4+
Circle One:	0	1	2

10. How many books are available in the block area?	0	1-3	4+
Circle One:	0	1	2

11. How many books are available in other areas (not including the book area)?	0	1-3	4+
Circle One:	0	1	2

List these other areas:

12. Is there a place for children to listen to recorded books/stories?	Yes	No
Circle One:	1	0

*The listening center does not have to be a permanent area in the classroom. However, it must be in working order and available to children without adult assistance on the day of your observation.*

**Book Use Total** 5

### Writing Materials

13. Is an alphabet visible?	Yes	No
Circle One:	1	0

*This includes but is not limited to alphabet posters, stencils, and letter shapes. The alphabet must be at children's eye level or readily used by children.*

14. Are there word cards with names or familiar words?	Yes	No
Circle One:	1	0

*For example, are there cards with children's names held together on a ring or cards with familiar words posted on the wall next to or above the writing area? Word cards must be in a place intended to support children's writing. (Words cards do not include labels on objects around the room.)*

15. Are there templates or tools to help children form letters?	Yes	No
Circle One:	1	0

*For example, are there alphabet stencils, sandpaper letters, rubber stamps, and so forth?*

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16. How many varieties of paper are available for writing?	0	1-2 kinds	3+ kinds
Circle One:	0	1	2

*For example, is there construction paper, white lined and unlimited paper, tracing paper and so forth?*

17. How many varieties of writing tools are available?	0	1-2 kinds	3+ kinds
Circle One:	0	1	2

*For example, are there pens, pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, magnetic letters, a chalkboard, a whiteboard, a typewriter, rubber stamps, and so forth?*

18. Is a distinct area set up and functioning for writing?	Yes	No
Circle One:	1	0

*In order to score this item YES, the area must be only used for writing. It cannot be combined with an art area, or any other area.*

**Writing Materials Total** 8

### 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 dictation. If the display of teacher dictation consists of work from a one-time, teacher-led activity completed by all the children, count it as one example. If a single display consist 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 the 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.*

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22a. Are there writing tools in the dramatic play or block area?	Yes	No
Circle One:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 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:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 0

*If there are not 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 the children's use?	Yes	No
Circle One:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 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:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 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** 12

Book Total 3+5+5=13

Writing Total 8+12=20

Final Total 33

**Comments:**

Though Mrs. Bush's books and book area scored poorly, she had many tools around the room that helps promotes writing.