



Director Toolkit: Decision Making
Data-Informed Decision Making

Knowledge Check: Quality Learning Environment

The purpose of this self-assessment is to help you think about what a quality learning environment might look like and sound like. As you enter a preschool classroom, what key elements can you observe?

Quality Learning Environment Key Element	Observed Yes/No	If yes, provide an example that demonstrates this element.
1. All adults in the classroom strive to maintain a safe, caring, loving environment that allows children to learn and grow.		
2. Quality instruction is planned, intentional and follows a curriculum that includes all the developmental domains. A learning theme or unit of study is evident.		
3. Ongoing assessments (formal and informal) are used to plan instruction and to meet the needs of individual children.		
4. Management charts (e.g., class rules, picture schedule, and attendance) are at child's eye level and used to organize and manage the learning day.		
5. A balanced schedule of individual, small-group, and whole-group learning activities are planned and implemented throughout the day, both inside and outside.		
6. Learning areas (e.g., dramatic play, alphabet, writing center, math and science areas, and creative arts) include a variety of interesting and organized materials and are changed often.		
7. Teachers interact and engage in conversations with children during independent learning times. You hear more children's voices than adults during activities.		
8. A variety of intentional early literacy activities (e.g., alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, reading comprehension, vocabulary, emergent writing) are planned and reinforced throughout the day.		
9. Mathematics, scientific inquiry and social studies concepts/skills are planned and integrated during the day.		
10. Communication with families is ongoing and families are encouraged to participate in their child's education.		