

Early Literacy (K-3) Classroom "Look Fors"

Observer: _____

Teacher/Grade: _____

Date: _____

Duration of Observation: _____

Language Policy: _____

Language Use: _____

A. Reading/Writing Instruction

Teacher provides a variety of opportunities for:

1. Student oral literacy development (e.g., recitation, oral storytelling, songs, chants, memorization, etc.)

- Speaking
 Listening

2. Reading *(check classroom schedule, mark all that apply)*

- To children (teacher reads to students)
 With children (teacher and students read together)
 By children (students read independently)

3. One-on-one or small group explicit instruction in reading with students

4. Read alouds *(by an adult or student)*

5. Whole group reading *(can be observed in classroom schedule, a big book propped up in a corner, chart showing evidence of group book discussion, etc.)*

6. Writing *(check classroom schedule, mark all that apply)*

- To children (teacher demonstrates writing to students)
 With children (teacher and students write together)
 By children (students write independently)

7. Student engagement in conversation related to students' personal experiences around any of the observed activities *(mark all that apply)*

- Reading activities
 Writing activities

B. Print Rich Environment

Teacher guides students in the ongoing use of:

1. Systematically organized print

- Word walls
 Word cards
 Theme walls (alphabet, numbers, months, days of week, planets, fish, etc.)
 Content vocabulary charts (words specific to subject area study)
 Student/class name charts and/or cards

2. Reading labels of objects and areas in the classroom

3. Songs, chants, poems, rhymes, etc., that are displayed in the classroom

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4. Daily schedule/routines accessible and visible within the classroom
5. Alphabet chart displayed in the classroom at children's eye level when possible *(mark all that apply)*
 - Local language
 - English

Sources of writing displayed in the classroom:

6. Teacher writing reflecting multiple purposes
7. Student writing copied from a single source
8. Student writing *(mark all that apply)*
 - Created with children:** (student writing created with teacher)
 - Interactive writing/shared pen
 - Shared writing
 - Created by children:** (students write independently)
 - Prompted (students are given a topic and asked to write about it)
 - Freewriting
9. Student writing using a variety of texts
 - Narrative
 - Descriptive
 - Informational

C. Reading in the Classroom

1. Area set aside for reading
2. Newspapers, magazines, or other locally developed texts are easily available to children
3. The classroom library *(mark all that apply)*
 - Orderly and inviting to children
 - Available for children to use
 - Currently being used by children
4. Reading books in local language easily available to children
 - 0-10
 - 11-25
 - 26 or more
5. Reading books in English easily available to children
 - 0-10
 - 11-25
 - 26 or more

D. Use a blank sheet of paper to record other literacy activities observed but not noted above