

Outdoor Learning Environment Inventory: Child Development Programs

| | Yes | No |
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| Space and Design | | |
| Is there an unobstructed view of the children at all times? | | |
| Is there easy access to and from the indoor space used by the program? | | |
| Is there easy access to restrooms? | | |
| Is there a drinking fountain? | | |
| Is there a water spigot for attaching a hose? | | |
| Is there age-appropriate equipment for climbing, swinging, and building? | | |
| Is there a storage shed? | | |
| Are there soft materials like sawdust, sand, or bark under swings, slides, and climbers? | | |
| Are there sunny and shady areas? | | |
| Are there paved or hard surfaces for riding, chalk, etc.? | | |
| Is there a covered area for use in wet weather? | | |
| Is there a place to be alone or with one or two other children? | | |
| Is there open, grassy space for running, kicking, throwing, etc.? | | |
| Is there an area for digging? | | |
| Safety | | |
| Is the area free from litter? | | |
| Are any materials or equipment damaged? | | |
| Do you see rust, splinters, or cracks in any equipment? | | |
| Are there obvious hazards (s-hooks on swings, sharp edges, place to pinch fingers)? | | |
| Are there large rocks or roots that may trip children? | | |
| Are there protective surfaces under climbers, swings and slides? | | |
| Spaces for Learning | | |
| Is there a sand or water area? | | |
| Is there a space for sitting and reading books? | | |
| Are there dramatic play materials (kitchen, house, costumes)? | | |
| Are there blocks? | | |
| Are there props for imaginative play (tubes, boxes, ramps)? | | |
| Are there wheeled toys? | | |
| Are there balls, bean bags, or other objects for throwing? | | |

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| Are there sand and water toys? | | |
| Is there chalk or material for art and writing? | | |
| Are there opportunities for music (bells, cymbals, materials that make noise when struck, radio for dancing)? | | |
| Are there tools for exploration (binoculars, magnifying glasses, thermometers)? | | |
| Are there tools or objects for exploration (pulleys, ramps, pipes)? | | |
| Are there plants? | | |
| Are children encouraged to take care of plants? | | |
| Are there opportunities for taking walks? | | |

References and Source Material:

Cryer, D., Harms, T., & Riley, C. (2003). *All about the ECERS-R: A detailed guide in words and pictures to be used with the ECERS-R*. Kaplan Early Learning Co.

Dodge, D. T., Colker, L. J., & Heroman, C. (2002). *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, Inc.