



Checklist of Important Elements *for* Supporting Early Literacy

Availability of learning materials

	At least five picture books per child
	Three-dimensional alphabet letters
	Variety of writing implements (crayons, pencils, markers, colored pencils) and paper
	Games, materials, and activities to help children learn to name and print alphabet letters
	Games, materials, and activities to help children learn to rhyme
	Cozy and comfortable area where children can look at books of their own choice
	Separate area with table or other surface readily available for writing

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continued

Availability of early literacy learning opportunities

	Adults read aloud to children at least once a day
	Teacher introduces new words to children while reading picture books
	Teacher sometimes sounds out printed words when reading picture books and sometimes points to text while reading aloud
	Teacher encourages children to scribble and experiment with pretend writing
	Teacher has detailed and informative conversations with children about things that interest them (e.g., "How do you think ice cream is made?")
	Teacher encourages children to talk about their experiences
	Teacher helps children learn nursery rhymes
	Teacher encourages children to express themselves using complete sentences
	Teacher keeps a record of how individual children are progressing in their early literacy learning
	Teacher believes in the importance of helping young children gain early literacy knowledge
	Teacher engages children in games and activities that focus on phonological awareness (e.g., "Clap your hands for every sound you hear in po-ta-to")
	Teacher helps children learn to write their own and others' names
	Teacher regularly helps children learn the sounds the alphabet letters represent (e.g., "M makes the mmmm sound")
	Classroom day includes some planned teaching activities in which all children are expected to engage in literacy activities

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