Classroom Environment Checklist (CEC) Analysis

Basic Classroom Arrangement (based on learning centers)
- Promotes high-quality verbal interactions
- Provides opportunities for increased cooperative play
- Increases children's ability to focus on specific tasks with fewer distractions
- Allows children to make choices and engage in "hands-on" activities

Center Management System
- Provides a concrete method to help children make choices
- Encourages children to manage themselves in centers
- Allows children to use print in a meaningful way
- Allows children to use their name in a purposeful way

Variety of Accessible Center Materials
- Allows children to access and use materials independently
- Provides children with opportunities to make activity choices
- Requires minimal adult supervision, giving teacher time for more meaningful interactions

Center Materials Labels
- Makes a connection between words and pictures
- Allows children to clean up with little assistance
- Encourages children to manage themselves

Books in Centers
- Puts books in the hands of children
- Encourages children to learn book handling skills
- Provides opportunities for children to connect books with real experiences
- Supports thematic concepts and understandings

Writing Tools in Centers
- Provides children opportunities for authentic writing
- Allows children to incorporate writing into their pretend play
- Encourages use of theme related concepts and vocabulary

Book Availability
- Gives children opportunities to use books in meaningful ways
- Helps children understand the function of print
- Provides extension of classroom themes and concepts
- Allows children to choose from a variety of books
- Builds background knowledge and a love of reading

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Interactive Read Aloud Supports
- Promotes an enjoyable experience with books
- Motivates children to want to learn to read
- Provides a model of fluent and expressive reading
- Builds background knowledge and comprehension
- Encourages interactive conversations between teacher and children
- Uses print in a meaningful way
- Displays important information from the book (read aloud chart)
- Encourages theme and letter wall connections with vocabulary words
- Allows learning of planned vocabulary

Shared or Interactive Writing
- Provides children with a model for writing
- Sets a strong foundation for writing and concepts about print
- Encourages children to share information in a group setting
- Contributes to the feeling of community within the classroom
- Connects letters with letter sounds as the teacher "thinks out loud" while writing
- Encourages teacher to scaffold children's responses

Writing Journals
- Provides independent writing activities
- Encourages children to move through the stages of writing
- Connects children's thoughts to written words (teacher's dictation of child's drawing)
- Provides opportunities for children to express their feelings

Alphabet/PA Activities
- Engages children in independent letter knowledge activities
- Engages children in independent phonological activities
- Provides exposure to letters and letter sounds in a meaningful context

Children's Names
- Makes learning letters more meaningful
- Emphasizes the most important word a child learns
- Provides learning opportunities for children to look at print/letters
- Helps children make comparisons between their own name and other children's names
- Draws attention to specific letters and distinguishing features of letters

Letter Wall
- Allows children to see the letters displayed from A-Z
- Encourages letter recognition in meaningful ways
- Provides interaction with letters and words
- Provides a specific place for important words such as names and vocabulary

Authentic Print
- Encourages meaningful use of print for educational purposes
- Improves the classroom climate
- Encourages language development
- Provides opportunities for children to interact with print in meaningful ways

Children's Daily Schedule
- Allows children to predict the daily sequence of events
- Uses print in a meaningful way
- Eases transition from one activity to another
- Allows children to see when their day will end

Rules Chart
- Sets expectations for classroom behavior
- Provides guidelines for children to manage their own behavior
- Allows children to develop a sense of social responsibility
- Uses print in a meaningful way

Helper Chart
- Allows children to learn responsibility and gain a sense of ownership
- Encourages a sense of belonging to the classroom community
- Provides opportunities to recognize names and letters

Lesson Plan
- Focuses on teaching goals and objectives
- Allows for thoughtful selection of activities based on thematic concepts
- Encourages teacher to be prepared and have materials ready
- Includes large group, small group, and one-on-one activities
- Builds skills necessary for school readiness, based on the Prekindergarten Guidelines
- Expands on children's current level of understanding
- Includes direct and indirect instruction activities

Thematic Connections
- Encourages learning and use of vocabulary around a particular concept
- Organizes learning experiences around specific content areas
- Simulates real life experiences related to a theme
- Provides hands-on experiences for increased understanding

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Assessment Techniques
- Allows teacher to monitor children's progress
- Documents change over time
- Encourages teacher to make informed instruction decisions
- Allows teacher to modify instruction to meet individual children's needs
- Provides information for families

Children's Work Display
- Validates children's efforts
- Allows for a sense of community and ownership
- Emphasizes the children's work rather than commercial posters
- Provides opportunities for children to connect print to meaningful experiences
- Extends learning related to a theme or read aloud

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