

Indoor and Outdoor Environment Checklist

This checklist can be used for self-assessment by a director or classroom teacher as well as the mentor to determine what elements may be needed to provide a high-quality learning environment. Some items may not be required for Texas Rising Star but are indicators of high-quality learning environments.

Classroom Name: _____

Date Completed: _____

Space and Furnishings	Yes (Y)/ No (N)	Comment
Shelving and/or classroom materials are labeled with pictures and/or words	Y / N	
Storage areas have additional supplies that teachers can use to rotate materials	Y / N	
Soft, cozy area includes pillows, rug, stuffed animals, and so forth, and is available for a substantial part of the day. Cozy area is protected from intrusion; primarily for quiet play for one or two children.	Y / N	
Visual displays, including posters, photos, and artwork, are current, and the artwork is mostly created by the children in the classroom. They are posted at child's eye level.	Y / N	
Visual displays, including posters and photos, are comprised mostly of real people, objects, and places that are familiar to the children in the class	Y / N	
There are at least five distinct, labeled areas of play for the children within the classroom	Y / N	
Areas for active play (blocks, dramatic play, music) are separated from areas for quiet play (reading, cozy area, art, sensory, table toys)	Y / N	
Classroom materials (including books, manipulatives, dramatic play) portray diversity in culture, ethnicity, and ability	Y / N	
Children have access to real items throughout numerous areas of play within the classroom	Y / N	
Classroom materials and equipment are taken care of to ensure the health and safety of the children using them	Y / N	
No safety hazards indoors or outdoors. To include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical outlets covered • Electrical cords secured; no dangling cords • Medicine and/or cleaning materials are locked up • Rugs do not pose tripping hazard • Play equipment or environment has no entrapment areas that are between 3 1/2" and 9" in width 	Y / N	
Learning materials are available outside to facilitate continued learning (art, books, manipulatives, science, and dramatic play)	Y / N	
Children have access to explore or care for natural items outside, such as gardens, plants, and natural elements	Y / N	
Items available (inside or outside) are in abundance to not cause undue waiting	Y / N	
Distinct areas are provided outside to encourage small group exploration and/or social-emotional learning	Y / N	