















Creating a Print-Rich Classroom

Does your classroom help children learn about reading and writing? Use this checklist to review the literacy-related features of your environment.











Reading Corner

-  The book area is in a well-lit spot near the writing area.
-  There are child-sized tables and chairs, comfy places to sit, and a rug or carpet.
-  There are props for retelling stories (e.g., puppets, stuffed animals).
-  There are two to four books for each child in the class.
-  There are different types of books (e.g., storybooks, informational books, poetry, student-authored books).
-  Books are displayed on shelves or racks at eye-level with the spines facing out.
There is a repair kit for mending torn pages.

Writing Area

-  The writing area is in a well-lit spot near the reading corner.
-  There are child-sized tables and chairs, a desk and chair, and a rug or carpet.
-  There are things to write with (e.g., chalk, markers, pencils, crayons).
-  There are things to write on (e.g., chalkboards, blank books, notepads).
-  There are different kinds of paper (e.g., lined and unlined, white and colors).
-  There are alphabet books and toys (e.g., magnetic letters). There are recycled writing supplies (e.g., junk mail, calendars, coupons).
-  There are supplies for making books (stapler, hole punch, laces, cardboard, scissors).
-  There are supplies for writing to others (a computer or tablet, stationery, envelopes, greeting cards, stamps and stickers, mail box or bag).

Throughout the Classroom

-  There are reading and writing materials in all indoor and outdoor areas (e.g., the block area has books on buildings and paper and pencils to make signs).
-  Print tells what things are or where they belong (e.g., cubbies have names and symbols, shelves and containers have word and picture labels).
-  Print provides information (e.g., recipe charts, bulletin boards).
-  Print reminds children what to do (e.g., a few rules, how much the gerbil eats).
-  Print is in English and children's home languages.
-  Children write on attendance sheets, sign-up sheets, and message boards.
-  An alphabet chart is hung at children's eye level.
-  Teachers write children's dictated words on language charts and artwork.
-  Print is hung at children's eye-level and is large enough to be read at a distance.
-  Teachers sit with children when they write notes and lists.

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