

Teacher Education 475—Child Skills Checklist

Observer's name _____ Date _____

Program/school _____ Location _____

Is the child observed male or female? (Circle one)

Directions: Place () for items you see child perform regularly. Put (N) on items where there is no opportunity to observe. Put (+) for items where child has progressed to advanced level. Leave all other items blank.

1. Self-Identity

- ___ Separates from parents without difficulty
- ___ Does not cling to adults excessively
- ___ Makes eye contact with adults
- ___ Makes choices without the teacher's help
- ___ Seeks other children for play mates
- ___ Stands up for own rights
- ___ Plays roles confidently in dramatic play
- ___ Displays enthusiasm in regards to doing for self

2. Emotional Development

- ___ Allows self to be comforted during stressful times
- ___ Eats, sleeps, and toilets without fuss away from home
- ___ Handles sudden changes/startling situations with control
- ___ Can express anger in words rather than actions
- ___ Allows aggressive behavior to be redirected
- ___ Shows interest in classroom activities
- ___ Smiles, seems happy much of the time

3. Social Play

- ___ Plays by self with or without others
- ___ Plays by self constructing or creating something
- ___ Plays by self in pretending-type activity
- ___ Plays parallel to others with or without objects
- ___ Plays parallel to others constructing or creating something
- ___ Plays parallel to others in pretending-type activity
- ___ Plays with a group with or without objects
- ___ Plays with a group constructing or creating something
- ___ Plays with a group in pretending-type activity

4. Prosocial Behavior

- ___ Shows concern for someone in distress
- ___ Shows delight for someone experiencing pleasure
- ___ Can share with peers
- ___ Takes turns with toys or activities
- ___ Waits for turn without a fuss
- ___ Helps another do a task
- ___ Helps another in need

5. Large Motor Development

- Walks down steps alternating feet
- Runs with control over speed and direction
- Jumps over obstacle, landing on two feet
- Hops forward on one foot
- Pedals and steers tricycle
- Climbs up and down climbing equipment with ease
- Throws objects overhand to target
- Catches thrown object with hand

6. Small Motor Development

- Shows hand preference (which is _____)
- Turns with hand easily (knobs, lids, eggbeaters)
- Pours liquid into glass without spilling
- Unfastens and fastens zippers, buttons, velcro tabs
- Picks up and inserts objects with ease
- Uses drawing/writing tools with control
- Uses scissors with control
- Pounds in nails with control

7. Cognitive Development: Classification and Seriation

- Recognizes basic geometric shapes
- Recognizes colors
- Recognizes differences in size
- Sorts objects by appearance
- Discriminates things that are alike from those that are different
- Puts parts together to make a whole
- Arranges events in sequence from first to last
- Arranges objects in series according to a certain rule

8. Cognitive Development: Number, Time, Space, Memory

- Counts by rote to ten
- Counts objects to ten
- Knows the daily schedule in sequence
- Knows what happened yesterday
- Can build a block enclosure
- Can locate an object behind or beside something
- Recalls words to song, chant
- Can recollect and act on a series of directions

9. Spoken Language

- Speaks confidently in the classroom
- Speaks clearly enough for adults to understand
- Speaks in expanded sentences
- Takes part in conversation with other children
- Asks questions with proper word order
- Makes negative responses with proper word order
- Uses past tense verbs correctly
- Plays with rhyming words

10. Written Language

- Pretends to write by making scribbles in horizontal lines
- Includes features of real letters in scribbling
- Identifies own written language
- Identifies classroom labels
- Knows some alphabet letters
- Makes real letters
- Prints letters of name
- Prints name correctly in linear manner

11. Art Skills

- Makes random marks or covers paper with color
- Scribbles on paper
- Forms basic shapes
- Makes mandalas
- Makes suns
- Draws human as circle with arms and legs attached
- Draws animals, trees
- Makes pictorial drawings

12. Imagination

- Pretends by replaying familiar routines
- Needs particular props to do pretend play
- Assigns roles or takes assigns roles
- May switch roles without warning
- Takes on characteristics and actions related to role
- Uses elaborate and creative themes, ideas, details

Adapted with permission from:

Beatty, J.J. (1986). *Observing development of the young child*. Columbus, Ohio:

Charles Merrill.