

# Literacy Walkthrough Template for Early Learning Classrooms

**Directions:** This template is designed to help you organize your observations of classroom language and emergent literacy learning by focusing on **learning**, **teaching**, and the **classroom environment**. Classroom visits should be frequent (two or three times per week) and conducted throughout the school year. You will not observe all aspects at each visit. File copies of your ongoing observations and review them often for patterns of learning and instruction.

**Teacher Observed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Walk Through:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time in Classroom:** \_\_\_\_\_

Focus on Learning	Focus on Teaching	Focus on the Classroom Environment
<b>Learning Language (speaking &amp; listening)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> listens and responds <input type="checkbox"/> builds robust vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> speaks in complete sentences <input type="checkbox"/> engages in conversations <input type="checkbox"/> enjoys “playing” with language	<b>Teaching Language (speaking and listening)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> scaffolds language development <input type="checkbox"/> models correct use of language <input type="checkbox"/> builds oral vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> promotes word consciousness <input type="checkbox"/> supports children’s first language	<b>Language Environment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> arranges furniture for interaction <input type="checkbox"/> establishes interactive learning centers <input type="checkbox"/> maintains a “talking environment” <input type="checkbox"/> provides experiential learning opportunities
<b>Learning Literacy (reading and writing)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> listens to stories, poems, songs, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> retells stories (structured and at play) <input type="checkbox"/> displays an interest in books <input type="checkbox"/> understands the concepts of print <input type="checkbox"/> learns alphabet letters and symbols <input type="checkbox"/> writes for various purposes	<b>Teaching Literacy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> conducts interactive read-alouds (storybooks and informational text) <input type="checkbox"/> implements shared reading/writing <input type="checkbox"/> models meta-cognitive thinking <input type="checkbox"/> teaches explicit “mini lessons” (word study, reading/writing skills and strategies)	<b>Literacy Environment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> displays environmental print and labeled pictures <input type="checkbox"/> maintains interactive word walls <input type="checkbox"/> provides a classroom library/reading nook (leveled book boxes) <input type="checkbox"/> supports opportunities for practicing reading and writing through centers
<b>Active Learning</b> <input type="checkbox"/> learns by doing (active engagement) <input type="checkbox"/> explores with multiple senses <input type="checkbox"/> engages in problem solving <input type="checkbox"/> chooses from diverse materials	<b>Active Teaching</b> <input type="checkbox"/> scaffolds learning through a gradual release of responsibility model (GRRM) <input type="checkbox"/> implements explicit & systematic instruction <input type="checkbox"/> differentiates instruction through flexible grouping <input type="checkbox"/> plans active instruction based on data	<b>Active Environment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> provides materials that promote active learning (i.e., dry erase boards, all response cards, paper, writing utensils) <input type="checkbox"/> provides culturally diverse materials <input type="checkbox"/> provides time for exploration
<b>Play and Creative Arts</b> Children engage in: <input type="checkbox"/> creative arts and music <input type="checkbox"/> dramatic play and pretend play <input type="checkbox"/> blocks and large/small motor activities <input type="checkbox"/> manipulatives and math <input type="checkbox"/> science and sensory experiences	<b>Play and Creative Arts</b> Provides language and literacy experiences through: <input type="checkbox"/> creative arts and music <input type="checkbox"/> dramatic play and pretend play <input type="checkbox"/> blocks and large/small motor activities <input type="checkbox"/> manipulatives and math <input type="checkbox"/> science and sensory experiences	<b><u>Play and Creative Arts</u></b> Language and literacy is embedded in: <input type="checkbox"/> creative arts and music <input type="checkbox"/> dramatic play and pretend play <input type="checkbox"/> blocks and large/small motor activities <input type="checkbox"/> manipulatives and math <input type="checkbox"/> science and sensory experiences
<b>Learning Climate</b> Children are: <input type="checkbox"/> joyful and relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> on-task and engaged <input type="checkbox"/> participating in positive social interactions	<b>Teaching Climate</b> Teachers are: <input type="checkbox"/> energetic, enthusiastic, and nurturing <input type="checkbox"/> providing positive classroom management <input type="checkbox"/> encouraging children’s exploration and Problem-solving	<b><u>Environmental Climate</u></b> Classrooms are organized to: <input type="checkbox"/> encourage active learning <input type="checkbox"/> promote language development and literacy skills <input type="checkbox"/> ensure easily accessible materials <input type="checkbox"/> support social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development (the “whole child”)