

## Outdoor Learning Environment Inventory: Child Development Programs

Space and Design	Yes	No
Is there an unobstructed view of the children at all times?		
Is there easy access to and from the indoor space used by the program?		
Is there easy access to restrooms?		
Is there a drinking fountain?		
Is there a water spigot for attaching a hose?		
Is there age-appropriate equipment for climbing, swinging, and building?		
Is there a storage shed?		
Are there soft materials like sawdust, sand, or bark under swings, slides, and climbers?		
Are there sunny and shady areas?		
Are there paved or hard surfaces for riding, chalk, etc.?		
Is there a covered area for use in wet weather?		
Is there a place to be alone or with one or two other children?		
Is there open, grassy space for running, kicking, throwing, etc.?		
Is there an area for digging?		
Safety	Yes	No
Is the area free from litter?		
Are any materials or equipment damaged?		
Do you see rust, splinters, or cracks in any equipment?		
Are there obvious hazards (s-hooks on swings, sharp edges, place to pinch fingers)?		
Are there large rocks or roots that may trip children?		
Are there protective surfaces under climbers, swings and slides?		

Safe Spaces for Learning	Yes	No
Is there a sand or water area?		
Is there a space for sitting and reading books?		
Are there dramatic play materials (kitchen, house, costumes)?		
Are there blocks?		
Are there props for imaginative play (tubes, boxes, ramps)?		
Are there wheeled toys?		
Are there balls, bean bags, or other objects for throwing?		
Are there sand and water toys?		
Is there chalk or material for art and writing?		
Are there opportunities for music (bells, materials that make noise when struck, radio)?		
Are there tools for exploration (binoculars, magnifying glasses, thermometers)?		
Are there tools or objects for exploration (pulleys, ramps, pipes)?		
Are there plants?		
Are children encouraged to take care of plants?		
Are there opportunities for taking walks?		

References and Source Material:

Cryer, D., Harms, T., & Riley, C. (2003). *All about the ECERS-R: A detailed guide in words and pictures to be used with the ECERS-R*. Kaplan Early Learning Co.

Dodge, D. T., Colker, L. J., & Heroman, C. (2002). *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, Inc.