

THE ESSENTIAL PRESCHOOL OBSERVATION FORM

Child's Name: _____

Physical Development Milestones - Gross Motor Skills

Date: _____

I can:

Walk up and down stairs using alternating feet
Pivot to change direction while running
Throw a ball

Skip, using a step-hop cadence
Balance on one leg
Throw and manipulate balls with a full range of motion

Physical Development Milestones - Fine Motor Skills

Date: _____

I can:

Use a pincer grip to grasp very small objects
Use a tripod grip to hold writing tools
Cut with scissors with scaffolding and support
Write name legibly

Draw several recognizable shapes
Stack blocks
Attempt to button or zipper jacket or coat

Cognitive Development Milestones - Literacy

Date: _____

I can:

Generate rhyming words
Match the beginning sound of some words
Identify syllables in words
Demonstrate that a series of letters form a word
Identify and name 11 to 20 upper- and lowercase letters
State the alphabet in order
Produce the correct sounds for 10 to 20 letters
Demonstrate understanding of concepts about print
(how a book works)

Turn book pages from front to back
Indicate where to start reading and the direction to follow
Discuss details about stories with an adult, such as the beginning, middle and end
Pretend to read using some words or elements from the text
Retell familiar stories in own words
Use drawing and dictation to express a message

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Cognitive Development Milestones - Mathematics

Date: _____

I can:

- Verbally count to ten or higher by rote
- Count to five or higher using one-to-one correspondence
- Recognize groups of up to five objects without counting
- Identify numbers up to 5 or higher and connect each to counted objects
- Follow simple directions related to proximity
- Identify and name the basic shapes

- Compare and order objects by size
- Sort objects by at least one variable (color, shape, etc.)
- Understand the daily routine and schedule
- Create and/or discuss simple graphs
- Extend and create simple repeating patterns (AB, AABB, ABC)

Social Development Milestones

Date: _____

I can:

- Show awareness of differences between children
- Begin a friendship with a designated “best friend”
- Play in groups of three or more children without conflict

- Join activities started by other children
- Initiate activities for others
- Share tools and toys with limited adult support

Emotional Development Milestones

Date: _____

I can:

- State first and last name without prompting
- Demonstrate empathy when a friend is sad or excited
- Share new abilities and accomplishments with pride
- Participate in classroom jobs or simple chores
- Engage in complex pretend or make-believe play

- Moderate behavior to match a scenario (loud on the playground, quiet during nap)
- Take turns during games and play
- Tell the difference between real and make-believe when appropriate

Anecdotal Records: