

Natural Environment Learning Opportunities Checklist

This checklist includes the types of environmental events/factors and adult (parent or practitioner) practices that can be used to engage children in everyday activities to encourage and sustain child learning in the activities. The checklist practices include a mix of interest-based child learning opportunities and adult positive (contingent) responsiveness to sustain child participation in the learning activities.

The checklist indicators can be used by a practitioner to develop a plan to use the practices with a child or to promote a parent’s use of the practices. The checklist rating scale can be used to do a self-evaluation to determine whether the different practice characteristics were part of using the practices with a child or promoting a parent’s use of the practices.

Practitioner: _____ Child: _____ Date: _____

| Please indicate which practice characteristics you were able to use with a child: | Seldom or Never (0-25%) | Some of the Time (25-50%) | As Often As I Can (50-75%) | Most of the Time (75-100%) | Notes |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Observe the child in everyday activities to identify child and environmental factors that attract the child’s attention | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2. Identify the everyday family activities and daily routines that the child finds most interesting and enjoyable | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3. Select those activities that provide the most opportunities for the child to acquire targeted behavior and use behavior capabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 4. Promote and encourage child participation in the everyday activities and routines used as contexts for child learning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 5. Respond positively (contingently) to the child’s behavior in the everyday activities to sustain child engagement and play | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 6. Join in the activities and provide support and guidance to sustain child engagement in targeted behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 7. Encourage child behavior elaborations by using different instructional strategies (modeling, shaping, etc.) to expand upon the child’s behavioral skills | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |