



QUALITY MARKERS FOR PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

Staff:

- A certified teacher and a teacher assistant must be in the classroom at all times.
- Parent volunteers extend teaching and learning opportunities.

Structure:

- An activity schedule with instructional content should be posted showing large, small, and individual activities.
- At least two books should be read at different times. If three year olds are present in the classroom, different books for 3s and 4s should be read.
- Large group instruction should last no more than 20 minutes. All children included in a large group should have the opportunity to talk and participate. However, if three year olds are in the class, they should be excused after 10 minutes to do other activities.
- Teachers teach children to work independently, while the teacher and the teacher assistant work with small groups.

Environment:

- The classroom should be organized and clean.
- The children's work should be displayed. Teachers and teacher assistants should not spend time decorating bulletin boards with purchased displays.
- Children should share and care for (picking up, cleaning) the classroom.

Curriculum Content:

- Different genres of literature are presented and discussed.
- New vocabulary is introduced and repeated frequently.
- Alphabet names, sounds, and orthography are used daily.
- Words are rhymed, segmented, and sounded out.
- Objects are counted, added, and subtracted.
- Music and art activities reinforce curriculum objectives.

Teaching:

- The teacher and teacher assistant are continuously involved with children.
- The teacher and teacher assistant have conversations with individual and small groups of children.
- The teacher has good management skills and the children are engaged.
- The teacher can explain how child assessment is used to plan curriculum.
- The teacher can explain how curriculum aligns with kindergarten.
- The teacher designed curricula is written and supported with research evidence.
- The teacher adapts a research-based, published curriculum, annotating what content is covered.
- The teacher can explain what he/she is doing for a child who is having difficulty learning.