



YES For Early Success Outdoor Environment Checklist

VISION:

At YES For Early Success, our vision is to ensure every child and family has equitable access to high-quality early childhood education, fostering sustainable growth and liberation for all communities. We believe that every child deserves a supportive and nurturing environment where they can thrive, and every family is empowered to advocate for their child's success.

MISSION:

Our mission is to partner with early childhood education programs and families, providing the resources and opportunities needed to prepare young children for kindergarten and lifelong success. We champion equitable access to education by empowering marginalized communities and aligning our work with the highest standards of quality care.

LIBERATORY DESIGN:

Liberatory Design is central to our approach, guiding us in creating spaces that are inclusive, equitable, and foster a sense of belonging. It emphasizes the importance of collaboration, cultural relevance, and shared leadership in designing systems and environments that support all stakeholders, including families, staff, and community partners.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A HEALTHY OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT:

A healthy outdoor environment is crucial to a child's outdoor learning classroom. Outdoor spaces provide children with the opportunity to explore, play, and engage in activities that support their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Access to nature and well-maintained play areas encourages curiosity, problem-solving, and creativity, all of which are foundational to early learning. Ensuring that these environments are safe, shaded, and developmentally appropriate is essential to promoting a child's overall well-being and fostering a deep connection with the natural world. At YES For Early Success, we are committed to maintaining outdoor environments that inspire joy, health, and learning for all children.

Thus, YES has implemented two annual outdoor inspections as part of supporting your success. Your Regional Director will contact you and set up a date and time for these inspections.



YES For Early Success Outdoor Environment Checklist

VISUAL INSPECTION OF OUTDOOR SPACE:

Inspector

- Inspect outdoor program space for hazards.
- Ensure equipment is free of hazards and in good repair.

Notes:

Play Space Requirements:

LICENSED USABLE SPACE:

Inspector

- Ensure at least 75 square feet of licensed outdoor play space per child accessing the space.
- Verify alternate plans (rotating groups or off-site play areas) are department-approved if needed.

Notes:

SHADE AREAS:

Inspector

- Verify shaded areas provided by trees, buildings, or shade structures.

Notes:

Date: _____

Inspector: _____

Site/Program: _____

Signature: _____



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AGE-APPROPRIATE PLAY ACTIVITIES:

Inspector

- Ensure play space promotes moderate and vigorous physical activities (running, jumping, etc.).

Notes:

Outdoor Play
Space Safety:

SAFE ROUTE TO PLAY AREA:

Inspector

- Confirm a safe route to and from the licensed outdoor play space.

Notes:

FENCING & BARRIERS:

Inspector

- Ensure outdoor play areas are enclosed by fences or barriers to prevent children from exiting.
- Fences should be at least 48 inches high, with gaps no greater than 3.5 inches.

Notes:

CONDITION OF FENCES & STRUCTURES:

Inspector

- Inspect for good condition of fences, gates, and barriers.
- Ensure no CCA, creosote, or pentachlorophenol-treated wood is used. Test and seal or remove if CCA is present.

Notes:

Playground Safety
(ECEAP Standards):



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PROTECTIVE SURFACING:

Inspector

- Ensure protective surfacing under all play equipment.

Notes:

FALL ZONES:

Inspector

- Maintain proper fall zones around play equipment.

Notes:

SWING SPACING & GUARDRAILS:

Inspector

- Ensure swing spacing and guardrails on elevated surfaces are in place.

Notes:

ENTRAPMENT HAZARDS & MOVING PARTS:

Inspector

- Check for potential entrapment hazards and ensure no exposed moving parts pose pinch or crush risks.

Notes:

Equipment
Maintenance:



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REPAIRS:

Inspector

- Immediately repair or remove:
- Loose, worn, or hazardous hardware.
- Exposed equipment footings.
- Tripping hazards (debris).
- Rust/chipped paint on metal components.
- Splinters, large cracks, or decayed wood.
- Structural deterioration or corrosion.

Notes:

Emergency Exits:

EXITS:

Inspector

- Ensure outdoor play areas have two exits, one leading to a non-indoor space.
- Verify that exits are not partially or entirely blocked.

Notes:

Transportation (If Applicable):



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TRANSPORTATION SAFETY:

Inspector

- Maintain up-to-date transportation policy and records.
- File current driver's licenses and vehicle insurance.
- Provide a copy of current driver's license and vehicle insurance.
- Ensure child safety seats and seat belts meet safety requirements.
- Document daily visual vehicle safety checks and regular vehicle inspections.

Notes:

Report
Documentation:

PICTURES OF OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

Inspector

- Attach pictures of the outdoor learning environment to accompany this inspection report.

Notes: