

Classroom Observation Protocol or Self-Assessment

Preschool Program _____ Date _____

Weather _____ Half/full day _____ # of students _____

Criterion	Rating	Evidence Support
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Program Goals</u></p> <p>Dual goals for both child development & conservation values, based on high quality practices of ECE & EE, grounded in sustainable practices</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Curriculum</u></p> <p>Central organizing concept is nature, based on local, seasonal, authentic experiences, academically integrated, learning in the context of reality</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Program Practices</u></p> <p>Start outside, child initiated, unstructured nature play, exploration in wild areas, inquiry based</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Teacher's Role</u></p> <p>Authentic engagement of teacher, facilitator, provides "nature time" for children and play in natural environments</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Indoors</u></p> <p>Nature is infused into all areas of the classroom, plenty of natural light, wood and natural materials, animals & plants</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Outdoors</u></p> <p>Natural play area with loose parts, climbing areas, digging sand & soil, gardening, water</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diverse Habitats</u></p> <p>Wild areas of natural habitats for exploration outside the play area – woods, prairie, wetlands, ponds, etc.</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p>Total _____ out of 28</p>	<p>General Comments & Notes</p>	

Additional Items for Evaluation

Criterion	Rating	Evidence Support
<p><u>Professional Development</u> Cultivation of own interest in nature, visit model programs, attend workshops & training to develop ECE and/or EE skills</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p><u>Formal Education</u> Directors and teachers are trained in both ECE and EE with an integration of methods</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p><u>Naturalists</u> Naturalists provide special programs and regularly scheduled visits to classes</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p><u>Special programs/Resources</u> Such as maple sugaring, raptors, animals, gardening, collections, greenhouses, etc.</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p><u>Animals & Artifacts</u> Access to wild and domestic animals and nature artifacts for education</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p><u>Parents</u> Clear communication and education with parents of benefits of nature for young children, resources for parents to provide nature experiences for their children</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p><u>Family Programs</u> Seasonal programs allow children to share nature with their families</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p><u>Sharing Knowledge</u> Program models appropriate nature-based early childhood practices for other educators and is a resource for the community</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (1) (1.5) (2) (2.5) (3) (3.5) (4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (0)</p>	
<p>Total _____ out of 32 Grand Total _____ out of 60</p>	<p>General Comments & Notes</p>	