

Developmentally Appropriate Environment: School Age Classroom Checklist

5 Interest Areas In Room

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

3 Materials/experiences in 3 areas that offer varied levels of difficulty and/or address different learning styles:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

SACF Content Areas
(Required: evidence of 5/9 in room)

- Arts & Culture
- Environmental Learning
- Global Learning
- Health & Wellness
- Language, Literacy & Numeracy
- Service Learning
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Media & Tech
- STEM (science-technology-engineering-math)

Others not seen in room can be shown as evidence from last year

Required:

50 consecutive minutes of uninterrupted free play/prorated for < 4 hours

Required Materials. All must be accessible:

- Books:** one for each child (at all times)
- Blocks:** two sets of 10-20
- Dramatic Play Materials:** 5 different examples

Fine Motor Materials 6 Different Types	Art Materials 6 Different Types	Math/Number Materials 6 Different Types	Science/Nature Materials 5 Different Types

Interactions – All of the following must be observed

- All staff/staff and staff/child interactions must be positive or at least neutral
- Staff and children demonstrate enjoyment in being with each other
- Staff respond to children’s needs promptly and appropriately
- Staff have developmentally appropriate expectations for children’s behavior

At least 2 of 5 must be observed:

- Staff are near children when promoting positive interactions and learning opportunities
- Staff initiate language and literacy activities to support language
- Staff have turn-taking conversations with most children and ask follow-up questions with a pleasant tone of voice
- Staff intentionally create opportunities for all children to engage in peer interaction in ways that are appropriate for each child
- Staff provide children with descriptive feedback for their efforts or accomplishments

Typical Interest Areas in Afterschool Spaces Include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Dramatic play➤ Reading area➤ Arts and crafts➤ Blocks and construction (building area)➤ Games, puzzles, small manipulatives➤ Science/Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Large motor/active area➤ Music and Movement area➤ Outdoor Area with various activity zones
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Brief list of examples of School-Age Materials for Use in an Afterschool Program

Books/Reading Materials

- Must be age appropriate for the range of developmental levels and interests of your group
- Can include fiction and non-fiction, magazines, child/group made books
- Staff should consider including books that depict diversity (ages, races, ethnicities, abilities)
- Books are another way to support SACF content area, such as non-fiction **science** (about weather, animals and nature, astronomy), **global learning** (diverse countries, cultures, people), **health and wellness**, human diversity and acceptance.

Art materials –

- Drawing and sketching: pencils, pens, markers, oil pastels, chalk, colored pencils, crayons
- Painting: watercolor, tempera, bingo markers
- Collage/constructive art using “loose parts”, such as pom poms, tiles, cardboard, yarn, cloth pieces, ribbon, items from nature (leaves, shells, stones, bark, seeds, wood), recyclables (cardboard tubes, caps, etc....)
- Crafts, such as origami, sewing, beading, weaving
- Sculpting: play doh, clay, silly putty, goop

Fine motor –

- Includes art materials (see above for examples), puzzles of varying levels of complexity, math manipulatives (see below for examples), fine motor manipulatives for building (e.g., K-nex, mobilos, Legos), games with small parts
- Tools: cooking utensils used in cooking and pretending, art, writing and homework supplies, tools for science exploration (magnifier, tweezers)

Blocks -

- Unit blocks of differing shapes and sizes (squares, rectangles, cylinders, arches, boards, etc....), large wooden hollow blocks, specialized wooden blocks (architecture blocks, castle blocks, small counting/sorting blocks)
- Accessories to augment/support block play: people figures, hard animals, small vehicles, small trees
- Note: Legos is considered a type of “block” by YoungStar, in afterschool programs.

Dramatic play –

- dress-up clothes, costumes, props, puppets, materials for both boys and girls to support roles and situations (work, adventure, fantasy, theatrical productions, materials to create costumes).

Math/number development –

- Math Manipulatives: unifix cubes, parquetry blocks, pattern blocks, geo boards, tangrams, small objects or “loose parts” used for counting, sorting, seriating, weighing, etc...
- Board or card games that include counting or other math concepts (e.g., dominos, mancala, number lotto, math fact cards, playing cards)
- Math tools or equipment: calculators, magnetic numbers, balance or other scales, timers, rulers, tape measures