Early years learning walk checklist

A learning walk, led by the EYFS practitioner, is a great way to have a conversation about your provision. This checklist provides key areas for leaders to consider.

Positive relationships

☐ The relationships between adults and children are positive.

☐ The adults have good knowledge of the children and use their children’s interests as a springboard for learning.

☐ The adults model the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for effective learning.

☐ The adults actively promote conversation, model language and new vocabulary effectively.

☐ Questioning is relevant to the task and the individual child.

☐ A range of questions and prompts are used to encourage thinking and problem solving.

☐ Conversations encourage children to develop their language, vocabulary and understanding.

☐ Good behaviour is promoted, and the adults encourage the children to work cooperatively.

☐ The adults are responsive to the emotional needs of the children.

☐ The adults are well deployed to support the children’s learning.
Enabling environments

☐ The activities and resources are chosen to reflect the needs and interests of the children.

☐ There is a balance of indoor and outdoor activities.

☐ There is a good balance of teacher directed and child-initiated activities.

☐ The organisation of the environment promotes independence and challenge.

☐ Resources are well organised, labelled clearly and accessible to all.

☐ Tasks are modelled and scaffolded where needed.

☐ There are opportunities for collaborative work.

☐ There are quiet, communication-friendly spaces and small spaces for independent or paired work.

☐ The environment promotes an inclusive approach to learning.

☐ Resources and activities are playful, practical and purposeful.

The unique child

☐ The adults recognise when it is appropriate to engage in children’s self-initiated activities to add challenge and extend thinking.

☐ The children are encouraged to ask questions and to reflect on their learning.

☐ Children are encouraged to lead their own learning.

☐ Children are active learners and are given time and space to explore their ideas.