

SPACES & SYSTEMS REVIEW

A Self-Assessment Resource for Early Childhood Program Alignment

The systems, environments, and relationships within an early childhood program shape how staff, children, and families experience their days. When routines feel unclear, spaces get crowded, or communication breaks down, even small disruptions can affect the well-being of your learning community.

An intentional reflection exercise can help:

- identify what's working well across your spaces, systems, and team culture
- highlight areas where misalignment, fatigue, or friction may be building
- refocus your energy and leadership around a few meaningful priorities for the months ahead

Tips for using this tool:

- invite input from teaching teams, family-facing staff, or community partners
- pair this assessment with your existing data sources (family feedback, classroom observations, etc.) to deepen your insights
- revisit this reflection regularly; program needs shift throughout the year, and your leadership can shift with them



BECKER'S

Welcoming & Belonging



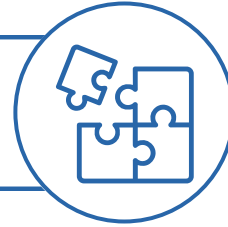
How do children, families, and staff experience a sense of welcome and connection in your space?

- ☐ What signals a sense of belonging as soon as someone walks in?
- ☐ Are cultural identities reflected in the materials, displays, and language used?
- ☐ What family engagement practices are consistent and meaningful?
- ☐ Are there practices or visuals that unintentionally exclude or go unexamined?
- ☐ How do staff reflect on and respond to issues of bias, representation, and accessibility?

What are we doing well?

Where do we have opportunity for growth?

Classroom Learning Environments



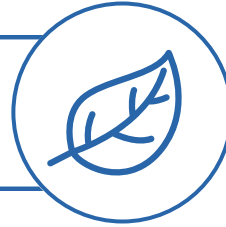
How are classrooms supporting children's development, independence, and joy?

- ☐ Are materials accessible, engaging, and responsive to children's interests?
- ☐ Do spaces invite autonomy, imagination, and meet diverse needs for regulation?
- ☐ Are learning centers evolving based on observation and reflection?
- ☐ Are children's languages, cultures, and identities reflected in the classroom environment?

What are we doing well?

Where do we have opportunity for growth?

Outdoor Spaces



What learning and connection opportunities are offered outdoors?

- ☐ Are outdoor materials well-maintained, varied, and inviting?
- ☐ How are nature, gross motor play, and exploration encouraged?
- ☐ Is outdoor time predictable, purposeful, and safe?
- ☐ Do outdoor areas reflect a range of experiences and include elements from children's diverse backgrounds?

What are we doing well?

Where do we have opportunity for growth?

Adult Spaces



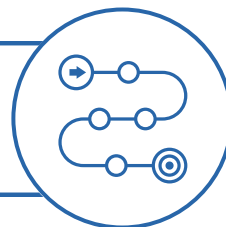
How are staff environments supporting professionalism, wellness, and collaboration?

- ☐ Is there a clean, calm space for breaks or planning?
- ☐ Are resources organized and easy to access?
- ☐ Do educators feel considered in the design of shared spaces?
- ☐ Are all team members represented and welcomed in shared work and rest areas?

What are we doing well?

Where do we have opportunity for growth?

Routines & Transitions



Are systems running smoothly and predictably across the day?

- ☐ Where do routines feel strong, and where is there friction?
- ☐ How are transitions supported for children and staff?
- ☐ Are schedules flexible enough to respond to real needs?
- ☐ Do routines consider children with sensory, mobility, or linguistic needs?

What are we doing well?

Where do we have opportunity for growth?

Communication & Documentation



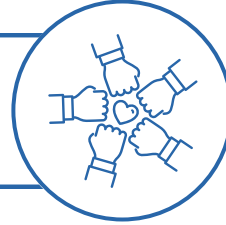
How is information shared, received, and recorded in your program?

- ☐ Do communication systems help families and staff feel informed and connected?
- ☐ Is documentation visible, current, and reflective of children's experiences?
- ☐ Are staff expectations for communication clear and supported?
- ☐ Are schedules flexible enough to respond to real needs?

What are we doing well?

Where do we have opportunity for growth?

Team Wellness & Program Culture



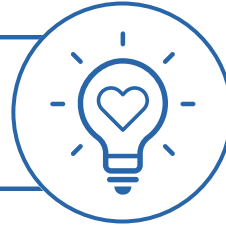
How does your culture reflect care, collaboration, and shared purpose?

- ☐ What are current signs of staff morale and connection?
- ☐ How do staff share input and ideas?
- ☐ Are there consistent ways to recognize progress, celebrate wins, and tend to challenges?
- ☐ Does leadership create space for dialogue about equity, inclusion, and workplace culture?

What are we doing well?

Where do we have opportunity for growth?

Vision & Values: Reflection Summary



Use this space to capture insights that speak to your program's guiding values and vision for the months ahead.

- ☐ What elements of your environment and culture reflect your core commitments most clearly?
- ☐ Where do you notice tension between your stated values and current practice?
- ☐ What changes, big or small, could bring your daily operations into stronger alignment with your vision?
- ☐ What feels most important to protect, strengthen, or reimagine in the coming season?
- ☐ How will you celebrate recent successes with your team and school community?

Notes: