



Pennsylvania

**School-Age
Professional Credential**

Observation Instrument

For use by Advisor and
SAC Assessor

**Pennsylvania
Early Learning**



*Keys to
Professional
Development*

Instructions

Your purpose in observing the Candidate is to gather information about the Candidate's competence in working with school-age children – how s/he manages children's health and safety, s/he interacts with children and parents, how s/he guides the well-being of children, and so forth.

Because your time is limited you can't expect to see as much as you might need to assess the Candidate's competence. On any given day, you won't be able to observe the Candidate fulfilling every competence that the Pennsylvania School-Age Professional Credential expects. For this reason, the information you gather in this observation is added to other information gathered by other Local Assessment Team Members and when reviewed together will provide a more comprehensive assessment of the Candidate's competence.

This observation instrument is used by the Advisor and the SAC Assessor. The Advisor must observe the Candidate within six (6) months prior to the submission of the Assessment Visit Request Form.

The SAC Assessor uses this observation instrument when they observe the Candidate at their work site as a part of the Local Assessment Review process.

This instrument is designed to help you make the most of your observation time by reminding you of things to look for. The instrument follows the PA School-Age Competency Standards, listing Competency Goals, Functional Areas, Competencies and indicators in the same order as the competency standards. (NOTE: Functional Area – Program Management is not assessed with this instrument).

However, you may not necessarily complete the form in order. You will observe for a period of time, turn to the appropriate functional area, make notes, observe again, turn to another appropriate functional area and so forth. You should attempt to observe and make notes in all of the functional areas.

The observation instrument does not stand alone. It is a companion piece to the competency standards. You should be familiar with the competency standards so that you understand the reason behind some of the competencies and/or indicators – reasons that may not be clear from the briefer observation instrument.

On the following pages, you will find a brief description of each Functional Area and numbered competencies followed by indicators which help define each competency. Below is an example:

FUNCTIONAL AREA 1: SAFE Candidate provides a safe environment to prevent and reduce injuries.		Competency
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-1. Candidate demonstrates prevention of injuries and harm to children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Follows DPW safety regulations and Policies and Procedures to keep children safe. <input type="checkbox"/> No unsafe materials or equipment in sight. 	OBSERVATION NOTES Write down brief examples of what the Candidate did - or did not do. Explain why it seems that an indicator or a competency does not apply (DNA).
Score Box	Indicator	Indicator

Scoring the Competency

As you observe, check off the relevant indicators. You need not check off all the indicator statements. Checking off an indicator does not mean that you are approving positive performance; it means, instead, that you have considered this aspect before you decided the competency score. When you have seen enough to make an assessment of how frequently the Candidate exhibits the competency, then you will give a score in the box next to the competency number.

Competencies are rated on a scale from 1 to 3. There are two additional options **I** and **DNA**. Definitions for scoring are in the chart on page 3. Usually, if you check off all the indicators listed, you will score the competency as a 3, but not always. Just because you have observed an indicator, does not mean that you have observed the Candidate taking that action repeatedly or consistently. In those cases, you might rate the competency as a 1 or a 2.

Each competency is scored using the following scale.

1 = Rarely	While observing, you saw the Candidate do this infrequently, or take inappropriate action.
2 = Sometimes	You saw some evidence of this action.
3 = Mostly	You saw the Candidate repeatedly demonstrating the behavior described.
I = Needs follow-up documentation or interview discussion	You were unable to see any evidence of this particular competency – and you believe that this is due to circumstances – the day of your visit, lack of time, and so forth – rather than to the Candidate’s lack of competence in that area. Therefore, you may rate a competency with an “I” to remind yourself that you will need to, seek documentation of the competency, and/or discuss it in the interview. <u>WARNING: Resist the temptation to use the “I” rating often, as you could be making more work for yourself, and the Candidate.</u>
DNA = Does not apply	From what you are able to observe, this competency does not apply to the Candidate’s situation. You will need to follow up with the Candidate to determine if the competency does not apply, or if it does and you were unable to observe it on the particular day you visited. If the latter is true, you’ll want to ask the Candidate to explain (Interview) or document (Portfolio or Resource File) how it applies and how s/he demonstrates that competency in his/her work.

Take Notes

It is important that you take notes as you observe indicators, and score competencies in all of the Functional Areas. These notes will explain your reasons for scoring each competency. When taking notes write down brief examples of what the Candidate did – or did not do. Explain why it seems that an indicator or a competency does not apply (DNA). Note if a competency seems as though it may be beyond the Candidate’s control (for example, the availability of storage space). Your notes will help guide you as you complete the assessment process.

There is space to make additional comments following each functional area. Use that space to identify anything else you observed related to the Candidate’s competence in that area, but which may not be already described in one of the area’s competency statements.

Completing Your Observation and the Observation Instrument

By the time you complete your observation, you should

- Have written a score (1, 2, 3, I, or DNA) by each numbered competency;
- Have checked off most of the indicators and;
- Have made notes to help you remember your rationale for a particular score;
- Have made a list of competencies that require further discussion/documentation.

Competency Goal I

FUNCTIONAL AREA 1: SAFE		OBSERVATION NOTES
Candidate provides a safe environment to prevent and reduce injuries.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>1-1. Candidate demonstrates prevention of injuries and harm to children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate follows DPW safety regulations and Policies and Procedures to keep children safe. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate ensures there are no unsafe materials or equipment in sight. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate designates separate areas for quiet and active play. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate arranges environment so children are visible to staff at all times. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate checks daily to see that equipment and supplies are cleaned up and stored appropriately. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate intervenes immediately when children are involved in unsafe play or not following safety rules. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>1-2. Candidate ensures that children are supervised at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate maintains appropriate child-adult ratios and group sizes (according to DPW regulation). <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses sign-in and sign-out procedures to ensure that children are supervised by staff or authorized family members. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>1-3. Candidate is prepared to act quickly and calmly if an accident or injury should occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate maintains first-aid and safety supplies and ensures these accompany children to the playground and off site. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate maintains emergency information of child including phone numbers for children's parents, police, fire, ambulance, and poison control next to an easily accessible telephone or with the phone if a cordless or cell. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate responds quickly and calmly to children in distress. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 2: HEALTHY		
Candidate promotes good health and nutrition and provides an environment that contributes to the prevention of illness.		OBSERVATION NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2-1. Candidate models habits that promote good health and nutrition to children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate does not use tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, soft drinks, or excessive candy while with children. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses safe and healthy practices regarding universal precautions, disinfecting equipment and surfaces, and safe food handling practices. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides meals and snacks that meet the USDA or CACFP guidelines. <input type="checkbox"/> Children are encouraged to drink lots of water, especially when active or weather is hot. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides fresh air daily through opening windows and/or providing outdoor time if weather and circumstances permit. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2-2. Candidate provides healthy, nutritious and pleasant snack and food experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate makes self- service snacks available, allowing for children to eat when, what and how much. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate serves meals in a relaxed atmosphere, and when able, Candidate sits with children to eat. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to plan, prepare and serve meals and snacks. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2-3. Candidate is prepared to deal common illness and allergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate demonstrates the ability to comfort and care for children with signs of illness and to prevent spread of infection. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate is aware of all children's allergies and makes necessary provisions. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 2: HEALTHY (cont.)		OBSERVATION NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2-4. Candidate maintains and makes available supplies and resources that help children and families practice healthy habits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate ensures basic supplies are available (e.g. tissues and feminine sanitary products). <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides health resources available to children and parents (e.g. magazines, pamphlets). 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3: OUT-OF-SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS		OBSERVATION NOTES
<p>Candidate uses space, relationships, materials, and routines as resources for constructing an interesting, secure, and enjoyable environment that encourages play, exploration, and learning.</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3-1. Candidate separates interest areas so that simultaneous activities of different natures can take place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate creates a variety of well-equipped, inviting, and responsive interest areas, with clearly marked boundaries. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate rotates areas with materials and props to reflect changing skills and interests, keeping the children's ideas and suggestions in mind. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate separates quiet and noisy activities to provide optimal concentration for the areas that require it. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate supports older children as they create spaces designated for their use only. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3-2. Candidate provides space supports a balance of activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides a quiet area with adequate lighting, tables, chairs and supplies (dictionaries, writing supplies, pencil sharpener and calculator) where children can do homework. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides comfortable indoor and outdoor areas where children can enjoy time alone. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate arranges for regular use of indoor and outdoor areas for large muscle play. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate has adapted the environment, when necessary, to accommodate children with special needs. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3: OUT-OF-SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS (cont.)		OBSERVATION NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3-3. Candidate provides materials which engage children's interests and abilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides reflect diversity and show no bias. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate offers a variety of materials children can use in different ways. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides materials to build on academic standards as well as interests children develop outside the program. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3-4. Candidate establishes schedules and routines that give children freedom within structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides a schedule that is familiar to the children, with time to do planned group activities, a time for free play, a time for homework, and a time for large gross motor play daily. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate manages transitions so children do not have to wait with nothing to do. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate allows for children to meet their personal needs on individual schedules. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3-5. Candidate has a systematic storage area and plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate has arranged the storage of materials categorically, labeled and so they are easily assessable to the children for play. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses portable items such as baskets and carts to arrange materials in shared space. 	

Competency Goal II

FUNCTIONAL AREA 4: PHYSICAL		OBSERVATION NOTES
Candidate provides a variety of equipment, activities, and opportunities to promote the physical development of school-age children.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>4-1. Candidate provides space, time and equipment to support physical development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides space and time for children to participate in active play everyday. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides a variety of materials and activities to challenge a wide range of physical capabilities including fine motor skills. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>4-2. Candidate provides leadership, and enthusiasm to encourage physical activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages children to make up and organize their own games. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate introduces children to games and activities that encourage physical development and cooperation. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate introduces new games and activities regularly so children learn different ways to use their muscles. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages children to track their own progress rather than compare themselves to others. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>4-3. Candidate plans developmentally appropriate activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages all children to engage in relaxing activities (e.g. artwork, puzzles, Legos® or blocks) on a daily basis. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides alternatives so that children of different ages, sizes, and skills, can all find ways to engage safely in active play and in activities that promote fine motor development. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate plans and implements increasingly difficult activities in which large and small muscles are used and that promote development of physical skills. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 5: COGNITIVE		OBSERVATION NOTES
Candidate provides hands-on activities, experiences, and opportunities that encourage curiosity, exploration, and problem solving appropriate to the developmental levels and learning styles of school-age children and support appropriate academic standards.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>5-1. Candidate encourages children to take charge of their own learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate offers children space and time to develop and carry out their plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides open-ended materials which children can explore and use in many different ways. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate solicits, respects and accepts children's ideas, suggestions, and solutions. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate follows a schedule that allows children to choose what they want to do and provides enough time for long-term projects (especially older children). 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>5-2. Candidate helps children develop their critical thinking and language skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate talks to and questions children about what they are observing and learning. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages children's emerging sense of humor. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate offers a wide range of books and magazines that reflect children's diverse interests and reading abilities. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>5-3. Candidate encourages children to develop their inter- and intra-personal intelligences (knowing themselves and others).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate allows children make decisions and solve problems on their own, without adult assistance. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate involves children in planning and evaluating the program's activities and routines. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to demonstrate their growing cognitive skills and apply them to new situations. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>5-4. Candidate taps into children's desire to explore adult skills to make and produce things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to have hands-on experiences, to learn by doing. For example, sculpture, photography, dance, drama, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children, especially 8-12 year-olds, to participate in and learn about their community. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 5: COGNITIVE (cont.)	OBSERVATION NOTES
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>5-5. Candidate balances children's academic needs with their needs to relax, have snacks, learn new skills, get exercise, and develop social skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides a schedule that offers a balance of homework assistance with appropriate fun learning activities to develop and strengthen skills. <input type="checkbox"/> Children are encouraged to do homework and exercise academic self-discipline as part of – but not the only element of the daily routine. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate responds to children's requests for assistance. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate has written plans showing how some activities help children meet Pennsylvania or national learning standards. 	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>5-6. Candidate support children's developing math skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides a wide range of games/ cards, building materials and measurement tools. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides activities on a daily basis that require the use of math in a creative and fun manner (e.g. cooking, projects requiring data collection and analysis). 	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>5-7. Candidate helps children develop curiosity about science and the natural world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides categorized materials on topics such as magnetism, static electricity, solar energy, and weather. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate make available materials that help children learn to classify, sequence, and understand cause and effect. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to explore natural science and the outdoor environment. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 6: COMMUNICATION		
Candidate actively communicates with school-age children and provides opportunities and support for school-age children to understand, acquire, and use verbal and nonverbal means of communicating thoughts and feelings.		OBSERVATION NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>6-1 Candidate models positive communication skills in interactions with other staff members and parents as well as with children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate listens attentively to what children have to say and shows respect for their ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate accepts children's use of slang and popular expressions while serving as a model for standard use of language. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses the different languages spoken by children and their families as a sign of respect and to enrich the program's language environment. <input type="checkbox"/> Most communication is not for the sole purpose of giving direction or disciplining. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>6-2. Candidate provides materials that encourage language development activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages children to read and write for pleasure. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides materials that encourage reading and writing in all areas (e.g. books, magazines, pens, pencils, paper, computer, binding materials). <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to record their storytelling, plays, skits, music and other creations through writing, audio or video taping. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 6: COMMUNICATION (cont.)	OBSERVATION NOTES
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>6-3. Candidate builds opportunities for children to develop and use communication skills into all program activities, not just those specifically related to reading, writing, and speaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate shows knowledge of developmental stages to promote communication (e.g. using printing or cursive writing on signs, bulletin boards, and other written materials based on the age of the children who use the area). <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses group meetings as opportunities for children to share their ideas, raise concerns, and discuss solutions. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides places where children can work, play, and talk in small groups. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate helps children plan and implement special interest clubs that use or explore communication skills (e.g. publishing a newspaper, planting a garden, discussing favorite books, or learning about television production). <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate helps children find the words to express their ideas and feelings. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate is alert to children's nonverbal cues (e.g. body language, dramatic play, drawings, and stories) and uses the cues to ask questions about their ideas and feelings. 	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>6-4. Candidate introduces more complex communication skills such as assertiveness, conflict resolution, and refusal skills as children develop and demonstrate a grasp of more basic skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate helps children express their feelings and discuss problems verbally rather than use aggression to solve a problem. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate teaches the use of brainstorming so children can use it as a problem-solving tool. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 7: CREATIVE		OBSERVATION NOTES
Candidate provides opportunities that stimulate school-age children to play with sound, rhythm, languages, materials, space, and ideas in individual ways and to express their creative abilities.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>7-1. Candidate models and offers enthusiastic leadership for creative thinking and projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate utilizes community resources to expose children to a variety of creative experiences. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate offers activities that introduce new ideas and allow children to develop and carry out their own plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages children to take risks, learn from their mistakes, and try again. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate interacts positively so that children feel valued for their uniqueness. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages children to express their ideas and feelings. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate helps children try out many new experiences in a spirit of discovery and curiosity. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>7-2. Candidate creates an environment that encourages children's creativity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate offers materials that allow children to explore subjects and interests introduced at school and through experiences, such as field trips. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate plans a schedule that allows for blocks of time where children are free to organize their own games and activities without adult involvement. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate arranges the environment so children spread, out, explore and be messy. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>7-3. Candidate introduces new, creative processes, ideas, and activities to children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides activities that include sensory experiences. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate extends children's dramatic play. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate plans a variety of cultural activities that introduce children to the arts (e.g. drama, dance, music, literature, film, painting, drawing, and sculpture). 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 7: CREATIVE (cont.)		OBSERVATION NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>7-4. Candidate encourages children to develop their creative abilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate asks a variety of questions that encourage children to think about things in new ways. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate helps children understand that it takes hard work and practice to develop their talents. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate responds to children's ideas for projects and activities. 	

Competency Goal III

FUNCTIONAL AREA 8: SELF		OBSERVATION NOTES
Candidate provides physical and emotional security for each school-age child and helps each school-age child to know, accept, take pride in him/herself and develop a sense of independence.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>8-1. Candidate respects the individuality of children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate shows children they are appreciated, valued, and enjoyed. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate works with colleagues to make sure children receive the individual attention they need. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate allows children to choose what they want to do and allows children to choose not to participate in an activity. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate makes no bias remarks, or allows children to make bias marks with out corrective action. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>8-2. Candidate helps children identify, plan, and pursue their own interests and talents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identifies children's interests through observation, surveys and conversation. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides children with time and resources need to pursue their interests or master a skill. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>8-3. Candidate provides opportunities for children to experience success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses gentle, physical or nonverbal contact—a hug, a touch, a smile to let children know they are cared for. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses praise and recognition to acknowledge children's efforts and accomplishments. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>8-4. Candidate encourages children to solve their own problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate intervenes only when it seems that children can not find a solution or when someone might get hurt. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate helps children deal with their setbacks by accepting their feelings and failures and responding respectfully. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 8: SELF (cont.)	OBSERVATION NOTES
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>8-5. Candidate involves children in activities that help children learn positive social values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate allows children to demonstrate responsibility as they participate in program's daily operations (e.g. set up of activities) <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate allows children to use their growing independence in safe and age-appropriate ways. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to develop citizenship and leadership skills. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 9: SOCIAL Candidate helps each school-age child feel accepted in the group, helps children learn to communicate and get along with others, and encourages feelings of empathy and mutual respect among school-age children and adults.		OBSERVATION NOTES
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div>	<p>9-1. Candidate facilitates learning of social skills through environmental experiences, intentional teaching and role modeling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate models acceptable ways to interact with other people of all ages and acceptable ways to express feelings. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate observes and listens to learn how each child relates to others in the program and what each child's individual needs may be. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate assists children who have difficulty being accepted by their peers. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to socialize (e.g. self selected activities, time to talk to others). 	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div>	<p>9-2. Candidate builds a sense of community among children and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate plans multi-age activities that encourage cooperation and allow older children to play the role of leader and mentor. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate encourages children to help each other. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides opportunities for children to belong to groups. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 9: SOCIAL (cont.)		OBSERVATION NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>9-3. Helps children feel part of larger community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides opportunities for children to be involved in the community. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate invites community members to share their special knowledge and skills with the children. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 10: GUIDANCE		OBSERVATION NOTES
<p>Candidate provides a supportive environment in which children can learn and practice appropriate and acceptable behaviors as individuals and as a group.</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>10-1. Candidate creates an environment of respect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate speaks respectfully, using an appropriate tone with children and other adults and requires children to do the same. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate redirects children from inappropriate to appropriate behavior (for example, from play wrestling in the quiet area to playing a game in the gym). <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate provides a supportive environment by prohibiting name calling, bullying, and other emotionally harmful interactions. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>10-2. Candidate uses positive problem-solving and problem prevention methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate allows children to experience the natural or logical consequences of their behavior [when safe and appropriate to do so]. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate listens to and accepts children's angry feelings while helping them understand the consequences of expressing those feelings inappropriately. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate talks to children about their day at school, their friends, their concerns, and their feelings. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate models appropriate ways to express negative feelings. 	

FUNCTIONAL AREA 10: GUIDANCE (cont.)	OBSERVATION NOTES
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>10-3. Candidate helps children develop and practice conflict resolution techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate holds group where children can raise concerns and grievances and work together to solve problems. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate gives children opportunities to handle their disagreements without adult assistance. 	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>10-4. Candidate follows a schedule that allows freedom within structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate plans some activities that require cooperation rather than competition. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate limits children's exposure to violence. 	

Competency Goal IV

FUNCTIONAL AREA 11: FAMILIES		OBSERVATION NOTES
Candidate maintains an open, friendly and cooperative relationship with each school-age child's family, encourages their involvement in the program, and supports the school-age child's relationships with his or her family, respects the diversity of family structures and understands that children develop within the context of their families and culture.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>11-1. Candidate demonstrates understanding that it is important to establish a relationship with children's parents/families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate calls family members by name. <input type="checkbox"/> Family members talk easily with Candidate. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate shows respect for diversity in family make up. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>11-2. Candidate develops a system of regular communication with parents and families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate uses a variety of communication strategies to inform parents and families about the program. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate recognizes that parental/family involvement is not restricted to formal meetings, but happens at every point of intersection. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate shares interesting, positive information about each child's day. <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate gives families information about their child's routines; for example, that the child did not eat snack, etc 	

Competency Goal V

Functional Area 12: Program Management

Candidate is a manager who uses all available resources to ensure an effective operation. The Candidate is a competent organizer, planner, record keeper, communicator, and a cooperative co-worker.

This Functional Area is assessed through the Portfolio and Resource File documentation.

Competency Goal VI

FUNCTIONAL AREA 13: PROFESSIONALISM

Candidate makes decisions based on knowledge of school-age development theories and practices, promotes quality in school-age services, maintains confidentiality at all times, and takes advantage of opportunities to improve competence, both for personal and professional growth and for the benefit of school-age children and families.

OBSERVATION NOTES



- 13-1. Candidate demonstrates professionalism
- Candidate maintains confidentiality at all times. For example, when speaking to families or children about confidential matters, candidate ensures that they can not be overheard.

Other aspects of this Functional Area are assessed through the Portfolio and Resource File documentation.

Growth Strategies

Instructions: Record at least one growth strategy in each goal area. Strategies should be a goal statement for improvement and provide specific suggestions on how to accomplish the goal.

Goal Statement	Growth Strategy
1. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy environment conducive to learning.	
2. To advance physical and intellectual competence.	
3. To support social and emotional development and provide positive guidance.	
4. To establish positive and productive relationships with families.	
5. To ensure a well-run purposeful program responsive to participant needs.	
6. To maintain a commitment to professionalism.	

Observation Instrument Summary Score Sheet



Instructions: Please record the score for each item in the appropriate space below. Indicate and "I" after the score for any item where the Candidate's interview comments contributed to your rating.

Candidate Name			
Last four digits of Social Security #			

	1-1		4-1		6-3		9-2
	1-2		4-2		6-4		9-3
	1-3		4-3		7-1		10-1
	2-1		5-1		7-2		10-2
	2-2		5-2		7-3		10-3
	2-3		5-3		7-4		10-4
	2-4		5-4		8-1		11-1
	3-1		5-5		8-2		11-2
	3-2		5-6		8-3		13-2
	3-3		5-7		8-4		
	3-4		6-1		8-5		
	3-5		6-2		9-1		