



Preparing for the Pyramid: Classroom Essentials



Educator: _____ **Mentor/Coach:** _____

Program Name: _____ **Date:** _____

This form is intended to be a coaching tool used after the initial TPOT/IPITOS to help the Pyramid Model educator be ready for coaching to begin. The educator and mentor/coach can review together and discuss if any modifications need to be made before the first coaching cycle begins.

1. Visual schedule *ALL must be present

- Includes photographs or clip art for each activity
- Each daily activity represented
- Posted at children's eye level
- Accommodates when changes occur (e.g., rainy weather, visitors, field trips, special events)
- Indicates the passing of time (i.e., pieces can be flipped over, removed, or marker identifying current activity)
- Remains visible the entire day

Notes:

2. Behavior expectations

- Positively stated (e.g., 'We are safe', 'We are kind').
- No more than 5 expectations
- Displayed expectations included an image or symbol
- Posted and visible, at eye level, to children in the classroom

Notes:

3. Rules

- Positively stated
- No more than 5 rules
- Visual representation
- Posted at children's eye level in the activity or setting where applicable

Notes:

4. Families are visually represented (e.g. photos posted, class book)

- Every child is represented
- Easily seen or accessible
- Families are represented in a positive way
- Visuals are represented at children's eye level

Notes:

5. Physical environment designed to promote engagement

- Enough centres/areas to accommodate the number of children
- Centres/areas have clear boundaries
- Materials are developmentally appropriate, accessibility for a variety of learners, and adequate in number and variety
- No wide-open spaces for children to run
- Group area is clearly defined with enough space to accommodate the number of children
- Accessible materials for all learners

Notes:

6. If present, behavior management systems are positive **Note: this is not a required classroom essential*

- Does not include punitive measures (e.g. moving clip to a red light, smiley/frown face daily ratings, time out space)
- Any acknowledgement earned is not lost
- Any parent communication about the system focuses on what has gone well, rather than challenges
- All children are eligible to earn acknowledgement throughout the day

Notes:

Adapted from: National Centre for Pyramid Model Innovations "Preparing for the Pyramid: Classroom Essentials"