



walking in
wellness

Observation Rubric

Purpose: This visit allows us to gently observe how each child engages in our nature- and community-based environment. We are looking for signs that a child can safely and comfortably participate within our teacher-to-child ratios.

Note: Children are not expected to be highly social throughout the day. Independent play is more than welcomed; however, to attend as a drop-off program, children who are able to participate in group moments (circle, read-aloud, guided activities) without requiring frequent one-on-one support tend to feel most comfortable in a drop-off setting.

Learner Name: _____

Skill	Readiness Indicators	Notes
Communication of Needs	Expresses basic needs (bathroom, hunger, discomfort, help) in a way adults can understand; may use words, gestures, or other communication styles	
Ability to Follow Directions	Follows simple one-step directions (e.g., “come here,” “stay with the group,” “put this away”) with minimal repetition.	
Emotional Regulation	Shows age-appropriate responses to frustration/disappointment; may need support but is able to recover and rejoin the group	
Impulse Control & Safety Awareness	Demonstrates awareness of basic safety boundaries (stays within sight, responds to safety cues, uses materials appropriately)	
Group Engagement & Support Needs	Able to participate in essential group activities with limited adult support; remains safely and meaningfully engaged	
Transitions	Moves between activities (play, snack, circle, etc.) with guidance but without significant distress or resistance	
Separation & Comfort	Separates from caregiver (if applicable) and is able to engage in the environment after a reasonable adjustment period	

