

Baseline assessment observation sheet

Reception

Communication,
language and literacy

Child's name _____ Practitioner _____ Date _____

Throughout the assessment, you should give the child a reasonable length of time to answer each question.

- In response to open-ended questions, you should **accept any relevant answer(s)**.
- If the child does not respond, move on to the next question without selecting an answer.

There is space to record how **confidently** and **independently** the child answered each question. You can use the 'Notes' sections to record any extra useful information. For example:

- the child's response
- strategies used by the child
- the child's behaviour
- strategies used by the practitioner

For questions 20–24, you will need a selection of books for the child to choose from.

This assessment is designed to be enjoyable and part of a child's everyday learning. Use your professional judgement and knowledge of the child to decide how much of the assessment the child completes.

Questions 1–8 assess the child's **early vocabulary**.

Vocabulary			
1	Let's read a story about a girl named Amy! This is Amy and her dad. Who is in this picture?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	Notes	
	Confidence <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3		

2	Amy and her dad go for a walk in the park today. They see lots of trees. Point to a tree.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
3	They like to follow the path all around the park. Point to the path.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
4	Along the way, they see many animals. Which animal is on the grass?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
5	They watch a dog playing fetch. What can you tell me about the dog?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
6	A butterfly flutters past them! Tell me what you notice about the butterfly.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

7	Amy sits on a bench to enjoy the sun. What do you like to do outside?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
8	When the weather changes, Amy and her dad decide to leave. What is the weather like in this picture?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

Questions 9–16 assess the child's **phonological awareness**.

Identify words with the same initial sound			
9	As they leave, Amy waves goodbye to the dog. What is the first sound in the word 'dog'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
10	On their walk home, Amy and her dad pass some shops. Which word starts with the same sound as 'pass': 'toy' or 'post'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

Identify words that rhyme

11	Amy peeks into the window of the toy shop. Which word rhymes with 'shop': 'top' or 'ball'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/> Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

12	Amy feels a drop plop on her head. Which word rhymes with 'drop': 'plop' or 'head'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/> Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

Identify the number of syllables in a word

13	Amy skips through puddles, laughing as they splash her! I can clap the syllables in 'puddles'. (<i>clap</i>) 'Pud-dles'. Can you clap the syllables in the word 'laughing'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/> Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

14	Amy and her dad hurry inside to dry off quickly. I can clap the syllables in 'hurry'. (<i>clap</i>) 'Hur-ry'. Can you clap the syllables in the word 'quickly'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/> Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

Isolate phonemes from words

15	They decide to make a cup of hot chocolate to warm up.		
	What sounds do you hear in the word 'CUP'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3	Notes	
	Confidence 1 2 3		

16	They love to make hot chocolate when it rains.		
	What sounds do you hear in the word 'RAINS'?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3	Notes	
	Confidence 1 2 3		

Questions 17–19 assess the child's **early comprehension**.

Understand a story

17	Where did Amy and her dad go for a walk?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3	Notes	
	Confidence 1 2 3		

18	How does Amy feel about hot chocolate?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3	Notes	
	Confidence 1 2 3		

19	What do you think happens next in this story?		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

Questions 20–24 assess the child's understanding of **books and print**.

For this section, you will need a selection of books for the child to choose from.

Understand key concepts about print			
20	Now we've read my story, which book would you like to choose? Point to the title of your book.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
21	Show me where I should start reading from.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
22	Show me the next page.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/>	Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	

23	Point to a full stop.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/> Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	
24	Point to a capital letter.		
	Could answer <input type="checkbox"/> Struggled to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Question skipped <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Independence 1 2 3 Confidence 1 2 3	Notes	