Baseline assessment observation sheet
Reception

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

For questions 23–24, 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 ☐ · Struggled to answer ☐ · Question skipped ☐	
	Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	Notes

2	Amy and her dad go for a walk in the park today. They see lots of trees. **Point to a tree.**

Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	**Notes**

5	They watch a dog playing fetch. **What can you tell me about the dog?**

e.g. 'The dog is brown.', 'The dog has a ball.', 'The dog is playing.'

Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	**Notes**

6	A butterfly flutters past them!
	Tell me what you notice about the butterfly.

	e.g. 'The butterfly is yellow and black.', 'It is flying.', 'It has spots.'		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	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?

	e.g. 'It is cloudy.', 'It is grey.'		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence 1 2 3	**Notes**
Confidence 1 2 3	

Identify words that rhyme

11	Amy peeks into the window of the toy shop.
	Which word rhymes with 'shop': 'top' or 'ball'?

Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence 1 2 3	**Notes**
Confidence 1 2 3	

12	Amy feels a drop plop on her head.
	Which word rhymes with 'drop': 'plop' or 'head'?

Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence 1 2 3	**Notes**
Confidence 1 2 3	

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'. *(clap)* **'Pud-dles'.**
	Can you clap the syllables in the word 'laughing'?

Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence 1 2 3	**Notes**
Confidence 1 2 3	

14	Amy and her dad hurry inside to dry off quickly.
	I can clap the syllables in 'hurry'. *(clap)* **'Hur-ry'.**
	Can you clap the syllables in the word 'inside'?

Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence 1 2 3	Notes
Confidence 1 2 3	

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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐

Independence 1 2 3	Notes
Confidence 1 2 3	

18	**How does Amy feel about hot chocolate?**		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	Notes	

19	**What do you think happens next in this story?**		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	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 ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	Notes	

21	**Show me where I should start reading from.**		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	Notes	

22	Show me the next page.		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	Notes	

23	Point to a full stop.		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	Notes	

24	Point to a capital letter.		
	Could answer ☐	Struggled to answer ☐	Question skipped ☐
	Independence ① ② ③ Confidence ① ② ③	Notes	