

NQS Area 3: Physical Environment Checklist

(Aligned to National Quality Standard – Quality Area 3: Physical Environment)

Use this checklist to reflect on and strengthen practice within your service. These prompts support continuous improvement, critical reflection, and Assessment and Rating preparation. Educators can complete it individually or as a team.

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Evidence ideas:	Policies, observations, educator reflections, family feedback, environment photos, planning documentation, meeting notes.
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3.1 Design

Key Element	Reflection Prompts
3.1.1 Fit for purpose	Are indoor and outdoor environments organised to support learning and participation?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts
3.1.2 Upkeep	Are equipment and environments safe, clean, and well maintained?

Notes/Actions:

3.2 Environment

Key Element	Reflection Prompts/Evidence
3.2.1 Inclusive environment	Do all children have equitable access and opportunities to participate?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts/Evidence
3.2.2 Resources support play-based learning	Do resources encourage creativity, exploration, and inquiry?

Notes/Actions:

Key Element	Reflection Prompts/Evidence
3.2.3 Environmentally responsible	Are sustainable practices embedded into routines and experiences?

Notes/Actions:

Team Reflection Summary

Summarise key strengths, challenges, and goals identified from the checklist. Use this to inform your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

Strengths:

Challenges:

Next Steps/Actions:
