

**Head Start**  
*Teacher Development Initiative*

## Instructional Practices Checklist

This checklist includes questions for you to consider in thinking about your use of instructional practices in your classroom. The checklist includes those features of instructional practices that are most likely to promote child engagement and learning. Complete the checklist by indicating if you did (Yes) or did not (No) use the practices in your classroom.

Did you ...		Yes	No
<b>Set the Stage</b>	<b>Supervise specific learning areas</b> of the classroom rather than supervising specific groups of children to encourage child engagement and adult availability to children?		
	Teach during <b>naturally occurring activities</b> and routines throughout the day?		
<b>Engage the Child</b>	Provide children opportunities to be involved in <b>activities that match their interests and abilities</b> ?		
	Let <b>children take the lead and make choices</b> in interactions with objects and people?		
	<b>Pay attention</b> to and focus on what captures and maintains the children's attention?		
<b>Respond to Child Behavior</b>	Interpret children's behaviors as <b>intents to interact</b> with objects and people?		
	Consider children's <b>individual styles and characteristics</b> when planning activities and responding to children's initiations in the activities?		
	<b>Respond promptly and positively</b> to children's behavior to help them learn how using their behaviors can make things happen?		
	<b>Match your responses</b> to different features of the children's behavior (e.g., intensity, tone, volume, level of emotion, and level of competence)?		
	Respond to children's initiations in ways that <b>help them maintain</b> what they are doing with objects and people (e.g., provide comments, acknowledgement, gestures, etc.)?		
<b>Encourage Elaboration</b>	Encourage children to <b>build upon their ongoing behavior</b> with objects and people?		
	<b>Join in</b> children's play and take turns with them?		
	<b>Respond to children's behavior</b> with open-ended questions, new information, or suggestions to get them to do new things?		
	<b>Show children how</b> to expand their behavior, do something a little bit differently, or do something new?		
	Provide children the <b>least assistance necessary</b> to help them use new behaviors (e.g., hold a toy steady so a child can use it)?		
	Encourage children to use behaviors that are <b>functional and appropriate</b> (generally accepted) for the situation?		
	Give children <b>multiple chances</b> throughout the day to produce and practice new behaviors?		