

Preschool Outdoor Environment Measurement Scale (POEMS) ®

POEMS® is an assessment tool for evaluating the quality of outdoor environments for children 3-5 years old. It is:

- a tool to assess the quality of early childhood outdoor environments,
- a self-study resource for teachers and administrators, and
- a design and planning guide for those intending to improve the quality of children's outdoor preschool environments.

POEMS® contains 56 items grouped in five domains:

<i>Physical Environment</i>	13 items
<i>Interactions</i>	13 items in 4 categories (Interactions with the environment, Child-child interactions, Teacher-child interactions, Parent-child interactions)
<i>Play and Learning Settings</i>	13 items in 2 categories (Features, Materials and loose parts)
<i>Program</i>	9 items
<i>Teacher/Caregiver Role</i>	8 items including an interview

POEMS® Features

- User guide
- Scale items and scoring protocol
- Key learning points for each domain
 - provides users with additional information and suggestions to develop high quality outdoor environments.
- Self-Improvement Plan
 - A blank and a completed example to use as a self- planning and self- study guide.
- Glossary of key terms
 - Defines terms used in the scale that may be unfamiliar to some individuals
- Reliability and validity information
 - Reliability established through a research study with 41 programs and 162 children. Details include Inter-observer reliability, internal consistency and concurrent validity (NC Star Ratings and time-sampling observations of child and teacher behavior). Expert review documented content and face validity.

Authors:

Karen DeBord, Ph.D., North Carolina State University
 Linda Hestenes, PhD., University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 Robin Moore, Dipl. Arch, MCP, North Carolina State University
 Nilda Cosco, Psp., North Carolina State University
 Janet McGinnis, M.Ed., NC More-at-Four Pre-Kindergarten Program

#39502 Preschool Outdoor Environment Measurement Scale (POEMS) \$24.95
#39503 Additional Scoring Protocols (Set of 10) \$11.95

