

Home & School Observation Checklist

A neutral way to compare patterns across contexts before or after assessment.

Learning & task demands

- Starts tasks independently
- Remembers multi-step instructions
- Completes work within expected time
- Checks work without repeated prompting
- Persists when work becomes difficult

Reading, writing & maths

- Reads accurately
- Reads fluently enough to understand
- Spelling/written output reflects verbal understanding
- Can organise longer written tasks
- Maths facts/procedures are available without excessive cognitive load

Executive functioning

- Keeps track of materials
- Plans ahead for deadlines
- Moves between tasks
- Uses strategies without adult reminders
- Notices and corrects errors

Emotional/context factors

- Confidence changes by subject or setting
- Avoidance appears before particular tasks
- Performance differs sharply at home and school
- Fatigue affects output
- Time pressure changes accuracy or quality

Compare, do not diagnose

Differences between home and school are useful evidence. They are not proof that one setting is wrong; they can reveal how task demands, relationships, structure and support affect functioning.

General educational information only. This guide does not diagnose a child or replace individual professional advice. Avoid sending unnecessary sensitive child information by ordinary email.