

Appendix A: Example Item from ECERS-E (Sylva, Siraj-Blatchford and Taggart, 2010: 38)

Item	Inadequate 1	2	Minimal 3	4	Good 5	6	Excellent 7
<b>Item 10. Natural materials *</b>							
	1.1 There is little access indoors to natural materials (fewer than 3 examples).		3.1 Some natural materials are accessible to the children indoors.*		5.1 Natural materials are used beyond decoration to illustrate specific concepts, (e.g. <i>planting seeds or bulbs to illustrate growth, seed dispersal</i> ). P D *		7.1 Children are encouraged to identify and explore a range of natural phenomena in their environment outside the centre and talk about/describe them. (P D) *
			3.2 Natural materials are accessible outdoors.*		5.2 Children are often encouraged to explore the characteristics of natural materials. *		7.2 Children are encouraged to bring natural materials into the centre. D Q*
					5.3 Adults show appreciation, curiosity and/or respect for nature when with children (e.g. <i>interest in, rather than fear or disgust, for fungi or worms</i> ). *		7.3 Children are encouraged to make close observations of natural objects and/or draw them. P D R *