Literacy Joy Meter

A weekly reflection on how literacy feels in your home

WEEK OF _____

Skills matter. But joy is what makes them last. A child can learn to decode words without ever loving reading. This meter isn't about what your child can do — it's about how literacy feels in your home right now. Rate each moment on a scale from dread to delight. No right answers. The pattern you see is the thing worth paying attention to.

Rate each item: 1 = not at all / rarely ■ ■ ■ ■ 5 = completely / always

STORYTIME & BOOKS

1 Bedtime reading — how did it feel this week, on average?

Not what happened. How it felt — for both of you

a chore we rushed ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *a moment we both loved*

2 How did your child react when you brought out a book — excited, neutral, or resistant?

Their body language tells you more than any assessment

turned away or ignored it ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *ran over, grabbed it, lit up*

3 Was there a book this week that sparked a real conversation — questions, laughter, or discussion?

A book that leads to talk is doing more than one that's quietly absorbed

nothing stood out ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *couldn't stop talking about it*

4 How did you feel reading aloud this week — were you present, or just getting through it?

Honest. Children sense the difference even when we think we're hiding it

distracted, going through motions ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *fully there, genuinely enjoying it*

WRITING, DRAWING & MAKING

5 When your child picked up a crayon or pencil this week, what was the energy like?

Freely chosen mark-making looks very different from reluctant colouring-in

avoided it or needed persuading ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *dived in without prompting*

6 How did your child respond when you showed interest in something they'd drawn or written?

Pride and eagerness to explain is a signal worth tracking week to week

shrugged or moved on quickly ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *proudly told you the whole story*

7 Did any drawing or mark-making this week turn into storytelling — did the picture become a narrative?

Themomentachildnarratestheirdrawing,twokindsofliteracyaregrowingatonce

drawing stayed as drawing ○○○○○ *the picture had a whole story behind it*

SOUND, SONG & PLAY WITH LANGUAGE

8 When a familiar song or nursery rhyme came on, how did your child respond?

Physicaljoy—bouncing,singingalong,anticipatingthenextline—isphonologicalawarenessin action

barely noticed ○○○○○ *lit up, joined in, wanted it again*

9 Did your child play with a word this week — find it funny, repeat it, or invent a variation?

Achildwhosavourswordsisalreadydoingtheworkthatphonicslessonstrytoteach

no particular word play ○○○○○ *found a word hilarious and ran with it*

10 How much genuine silliness was there in your language play — made-up words, funny voices, nonsense rhymes?

Sillinessaboutlanguagesignalssafetyanddelight—bothessentialforachildbecomingareader

mostly serious or functional ○○○○○ *regularly ridiculous and joyful*

STORYTELLING & CONVERSATION

11 When your child told you a story at length this week, how did you respond?

Yourlisteningisthemirrortheyusetodecidewhethertheirwordsmatter

half-listening, kept doing other things ○○○○○ *stopped, gave full attention, asked questions*

12 Did your child initiate any pretend play involving stories, characters, or made-up worlds?

Child-lednarrativeplayisamongtherichestliteracyactivitiesthatexists—anditcostsnothing

no story-based play this week ○○○○○ *deep in an imaginary world for long stretches*

13 How curious was your child about language — asking what words mean, noticing new ones?

Vocabularycuriosityisoneofthemostreliableearlysignalsofachildwhowilllovereading

no particular word curiosity ○○○○○ *constantly asking about words and meaning*

THE OVERALL FEELING

14 How does literacy feel in your home this week — as a presence, as an atmosphere?

Not the activities. The feeling around them

pressured or absent ○○○○○ *warm, natural, woven in*

15 If you had to describe your child's relationship with language and stories right now — what word fits?

Trust your gut. You know them better than any checklistdoes

reluctant or indifferent ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ *curious, hungry, alive to it*

YOUR JOY PROFILE

Storytime & books	__ / 5
Writing & drawing	__ / 5
Sound & song	__ / 5
Story & conversation	__ / 5
Overall feeling	__ / 5

Weekly joy score: _____ **/ 75**

THE MOMENT THIS WEEK THAT FELT MOST JOYFUL

One specific moment, however small. 'She asked me to read the snail page four times and laughed every time.'

THE MOMENT THAT FELT FLATTEST — AND ONE THING YOU'LL TRY DIFFERENTLY

No blame. Just noticing. 'Bedtime reading felt rushed — I'll start five minutes earlier next week.'