Checklist for Developing Your Picture Book

You wrote a story, and you feel like it's ready to be published...but you're not sure. What if you're missing something?

The following is a quick checklist you can look at to make sure you're on the right track.

Print out for ease.

<u>Developmental Checklist:</u>

1. Is the beginning exciting? Does it pull you in?
2. Do you have a story with a beginning, middle, and end? Does it have an exciting climax?
3. Did you develop your main character? Are they complex? What do they want? What do they like? What do they hate? What do they look like?
4. Does your character change? What do they learn by the end? How do their emotions change throughout the story?
5. Does the story have different scenes, or is it in one same place?
6. Is the story believable? Would this happen in real life, or is it too perfect? Is it too "cute"?
7. Do parents solve the problems and preach overly at the child?
8. Do the children have a reason they solve the problem? Or do they just magically get wisdom from nowhere?
9. Did you show each scene through your words or just tell the reader it happened?
10. Do you feel emotionally connected to the character? Do you care about what happens to them?
11. Is there a surprise coincidence that just magically solves everything?
12. Are there any parts that you added that don't serve any purpose in the plot?
13. Are you attached to a word or specific phrase? Consider removing it. Sometimes, being attached to a certain thing in the story holds the story back from being better, because you refuse to change it and the whole text has to be tailored around this one thing that just doesn't work.
14. Is the ending a resolution that makes sense??