The A B C Quick Check

A is for air:

✓ Check the air pressure, spin the wheels and make sure the tires are not worn out.

B is for brakes:

✓ Check to make sure coaster brakes will stop the bike by spinning the back wheel and applying the brake. If the bike has hand brakes check to see that the levers don’t hit the handlebars when squeezed. Lift one tire up at a time and spin it; squeeze the levers to see if the tire stops. The brake pads should be clean, straight and contact the rims properly.

C is for Cranks, Chain, and Cogs:

✓ Grab the crank arms and try to wiggle side to side. There should be no movement. Spin the pedals and cranks to see if the chain drives the rear wheel. The chain should look like metal not rust or black gunk. If the bike has gears check to make sure the gear levers and derailleurs (gear-changing mechanism) work to shift the chain between gears.

Quick Refers to the Quick Release:

✓ Some bikes have quick releases on the wheels or the seat post. Check to make sure they are tight and closed properly.

Check:

✓ After making sure the seat and handlebars are tight and the proper height, have the child ride the bicycle around the parking lot and check that everything works well.