

About the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®)

What is CLASS?

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) is a set of age-specific instruments that a program can use to measure interactions between teachers and children in a classroom or group setting. According to Teachstone, “CLASS not only defines teaching quality through the lens of interactions, it provides the ability to measure and improve the interactions that matter most for children’s outcomes. And, it’s a journey of continuous improvement that is data-driven.”

Three age-specific CLASS instruments are used in Quality First, each comprised of **domains** and **dimensions**. The assessment process includes a series of 20-minute observation cycles to identify **indicators**, observable behaviors related to each dimension, that consistently occur within early childhood care and education environments.

Age-Specific CLASS Instruments Used

Infant Classroom Assessment Scoring System (Infant CLASS)
6 weeks-18 months



Photo from [Teachstone](#)

Toddler Classroom Assessment Scoring System (Toddler CLASS)
15-36 months



Photo from [Teachstone](#)

Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (Pre-K CLASS)
3-5 years



Photo from [Teachstone](#)

Domains

- ★ Responsive Caregiving
- ★ Emotional and Behavioral Support
- ★ Engaged Support for Learning
- ★ Emotional Support
- ★ Classroom Organization
- ★ Instructional Support

When will a CLASS assessment be conducted?

Quality First participating sites that are accredited or are affiliated with Early Head Start/Head Start will start the formal assessment process with CLASS assessments. Non-accredited/Head Start participants will receive a CLASS assessment after completing all Environment Rating Scales (ERS) assessments if the Quality First Star Rating Scale classroom and program average ERS score thresholds are met. All participants can request an informal CLASS assessment, no matter their accreditation or Head Start affiliation.

CLASS assessments are conducted by a certified and reliable assessor from the Quality First Assessment team. The CLASS assessment tool can be used in center-based programs, family child care homes, and family group homes. A minimum of four 20-minute observation cycles are completed. Observations do not occur while children are engaging in outdoor free play.

How does CLASS support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)?

The information gathered from a CLASS assessment is helpful for programs and classroom staff to highlight and support positive teacher interactions, as well as identify areas for improvement.

The data collected by the CLASS assessment can:

- ★ Guide professional development planning
- ★ Inform individualized support for program and classroom staff by Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs)
- ★ Inform the development of Quality Improvement Plans (QIP)
- ★ Identify uses for incentive funds

Resources

- ★ [Teachstone Website](#)- Find additional information on the CLASS measures, including a storefront to purchase manuals and supplemental materials, additional resources, blog posts and much more.
- ★ [CLASS Self-Reflection Guides](#)
- ★ [Recommendations for Using the CLASS in Inclusive Early Childhood Programs](#)
- ★ [Quality First Participant Guide](#)- Includes additional information about the assessment process and the Quality First Star Rating Scale