

CLASS® Observation FAQs

Q: What is CLASS®?

A: The Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS) is a research-based tool that assesses the effectiveness of classroom interactions among teachers and children. It is these daily interactions that promote children's social, emotional, and cognitive development and lead to better child outcomes.

Q: What happens during a CLASS observation?

A: During an observation, the CLASS observer moves around the room, watching and taking notes on the interactions that are occurring among teachers and children and stopping periodically to assign scores. Observers will remain inconspicuous to the best of their ability so as not to interfere with classroom activities.

Q: How long do CLASS observations last?

A: Observations in a single-age classroom will last about 2 hours, capturing interactions across a variety of classroom experiences. Observations may be paused when children are engaged in outdoor free play.

Q: Who will be conducting my CLASS observation?

A: CLASS observations are conducted by Certified CLASS Observers. To become certified, observers must attend a rigorous 2-day training and pass an annual reliability test to show that they can use the CLASS measure fairly and accurately.

Q: How are the results of a CLASS observation used?

A: Observation results are used to provide a roadmap for improving classroom interactions by identifying the highly effective interactions that occurred so that you can continue to engage in the interactions that matter most for children. Data from an observation may also inform professional development needs for early childhood staff.

Q: How should I prepare?

A: You do not need to do anything to prepare. It's natural to be nervous, but try to conduct yourself as usual during the observation. The goal of the CLASS observation is to capture what the classroom is like on a typical day.

Q: What happens after my CLASS observation?

A: Teachstone will be compiling reports for the Office of Early Childhood to summarize the CLASS observations.