



Florida **VPK** Program Assessment

What is CLASS?

The Classroom Scoring System (CLASS) is an evidence-based observational tool used to assess the effectiveness of teacher-child interactions in the classroom focusing on the following domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.

Research supports that quality interactions between adults and children promote children's social and cognitive development helping them thrive in their learning environments. Classrooms that have received high CLASS scores are proven to support greater learning gains in language, math, and early literacy development.



Why am I being observed?

In accordance with Florida State Statute 1002.68 (2) each VPK classroom is required to participate in a program assessment. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is the identified tool for VPK program assessment.

Who will be conducting these observations?

All observers have a current certification achieved by completing and passing a 2-day training and passing an annual reliability training test to conduct a CLASS observation with validity and fidelity. Early Learning Coalitions are responsible for the administration of the program assessments. All program assessments are conducted by background checked coalition observers or approved Florida Department of Education (FDOE) vendor observers.

How long do the observations last?

A single-classroom observation lasts about 2 hours broken into smaller periods of 20 minutes for a total of 4 cycles. Observations may be paused during outdoor/recess time.

How can I best prepare for the observation?

Discuss with your program administrator your scheduled observation time and let the children know ahead of time. If unfamiliar with CLASS, attend an introductory training opportunity and familiarize yourself with the CLASS Dimensions Guide and tips. On the day of the observation, lead your class naturally like any other typical day.