



What Does a CLASS® Score Mean for My Child’s Early Learning Experience?

Florida’s School Readiness providers are measured on the effectiveness of teacher-child interactions that drive a child’s learning outcomes. The Office of Early Learning requires trained, certified observers to use the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) to assess interactions that lead to higher-quality teaching practices. These assessment scores can help you choose a quality child care program. CLASS® assessments vary by age level and include the following areas of interactions:

Infant (Birth-18 months)	Toddler (19-35 months)	Pre-Kindergarten (36 months-5 years)
Responsive Caregiving	Emotional and Behavioral Support Engaged Support for Learning	Emotional Support Classroom Organization Instructional Support

Provider CLASS® scores are created by averaging observation scores from their classrooms.

CLASS® Score 1 to 2	CLASS® Score 3 to 5	CLASS® Score 5 to 7
<i>Providers with these scores are not eligible to participate in the School Readiness Program.</i>	<i>Provider must have a score of 3.5 or higher to participate in the School Readiness Program.</i>	
<p>Reflects ineffective teaching practices demonstrated by few, if any, displays of effective teaching behaviors described in the high range. For example, in the low range, teachers routinely ignore or dismiss children’s needs or feelings; rarely engage children in meaningful activities or conversation; rarely smile or make eye contact; and, rarely provide children with choices.</p>	<p>Reflects a mix of teaching practices, demonstrated by teachers displaying the behaviors described in the high range some of the time, but at other times only providing basic supervision. For example, in the middle range, the daily routine may be followed on some days but not others; teachers may talk to children and ask questions about their play on some days, but just sit nearby and watch on other days; and, teachers may respond promptly to children’s needs at some times, but at other times simply ignore or dismiss the child.</p>	<p>Reflects good teaching practices demonstrated by a clear lack of negativity in the classroom and frequent displays of effective teaching behaviors such as eye contact, smiling, friendly interactions, sensitivity to children’s needs and feelings, providing opportunities for choice and leadership, consistent rules and routines, engaging children in meaningful activities and conversation and positive behavior support.</p>

What are some of the teacher-child interactions that CLASS® measures?

The teacher:

- Establishes warm, supportive relationships between and with children.
- Follows the child's lead and interest during play.
- Helps children understand expectations and effectively redirects misbehavior.
- Acknowledges accomplishments and efforts.
- Uses discussions and activities to promote higher-order thinking skills.
- Stimulates language and vocabulary development.

How do I find the score for my provider or a provider I am considering for my child?

You can find if a provider has a CLASS® score through the Florida Department of Children and Families' Child Care Search (CARES) website at <https://cares.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch>. You will see a score displayed like the one below:

The screenshot shows a provider profile on the CARES website. The provider is identified as a "Child Care Facility" with a distance of "N/A". The profile includes icons for VPK, A, B, and C, and icons for accessibility, hearing, vision, and a baby. The "SR Program Assessment" tab is selected, displaying the following information:

SR CLASS® Composite Score

4.33

out of 7.00
Date of score: (05/09/2019)

This provider is a School Readiness (SR) Program provider. All School Readiness providers are required to have an annual program assessment using CLASS®.

CLASS® is an observation-based tool that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions in the classroom. Using trained, certified observers, the CLASS® tool measures how classroom interactions and experiences help children develop language and learn new concepts, how the classroom is organized to manage children's attention, time and behavior, and the responsiveness and sensitivity of the classroom environment to children's emotions, which helps develop their ability to interact with others. For more information about CLASS® and your School Readiness provider's composite score, please contact your local early learning coalition ([link to Coalition map](#)).

If my provider does not have a CLASS® score, does it mean they do not provide quality care and education?

No, it means the rules may not require them to have an assessment because they:

- Serve only school-age children.
- Have a low number of School Readiness children.
- Provide only overnight School Readiness services.

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