

What to Expect During a CLASS® Observation

Programs participating in Bright & Early ND receive the benefit of an onsite Program Quality Observation completed by a trained, reliable, and endorsed Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®) Assessor.

WHAT IS THE CLASS®?

The CLASS® is a research-based method of measuring, evaluating, and improving teacher–child interactions. Bright & Early ND utilizes three scales, each designed for a different segment of the early childhood field.

- The [Infant CLASS®](#): This tool is designed to assess effective teacher-child interactions in care environments serving children birth to 18 months.
- The [Toddler CLASS®](#): This tool is designed to assess effective teacher-child interactions in care environments serving children 19-35 months.
- The [Pre-K CLASS®](#): This tool is designed to assess effective teacher-child interactions in care environments serving children ages 3 to 5 years.

HOW ARE THE CLASS® BEING USED IN NORTH DAKOTA?

The CLASS® observation provides valuable, relevant feedback in the form of a summary report. This information can be used by the program to help identify program strengths, as well as raise awareness to areas needing development. The information gathered can be used to help create the program's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). In addition, data from the CLASS® observation will provide valuable information for understanding the quality of child care in North Dakota.

PRIOR TO THE OBSERVATION

Your assigned Assessor will call to confirm 48 hours before your scheduled observation. If no one is available to answer the phone, a message will be left. An email will also be sent to the email address listed under the contact information on your Growing Futures organization profile.

On the morning of the observation, you can expect the Assessor to arrive at the program around 8:00 am. If your program has multiple classrooms or groups, the Assessor will meet with the Program Director or Lead Caregiver to go over the observation schedule.

At this time, the Assessor will need to gather the following information:

- names of the Lead teachers or Lead Caregivers present during the observation, and
- the number of children enrolled in the classroom or group.

Programs are encouraged to hold all regular indoor and outdoor activities. If something unexpected happens (i.e., a thunderstorm), follow the standard plan for that type of day.

DURING THE OBSERVATION

Each observation consists of three (3) cycles. Each cycle includes fifteen (15) minutes of observation and ten (10) minutes of scoring where the Assessor steps out of the room. After scoring, the Assessor may take up to five (5) additional minutes to prep for the next cycle.

The Assessor will let you know when they are starting and when they have finished their observation. The Assessor is trained to fade into the background and will limit their interaction with children and adults during the observation.

AFTER THE OBSERVATION

The Assessor will let you know when they have completed the observation. A CLASS[®] Summary Report will be created with the data collected from the observation. The CLASS[®] Summary Report will be emailed to the program within three (3) weeks of your observation date and will be uploaded to your RBPD events tab in your Growing Futures organization profile.

CHILD ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

To ensure the highest quality observation is as close to the typical day as possible, the following requirements regarding child enrollment and attendance must be met:

- All classrooms or groups must be observed.
- At minimum, at least 1 child per classroom or group served must be in attendance on the day of the observation.