

# Live CLASS® Observation Preparation for Educators



Live CLASS observations are informative and vital for impactful, quality classroom interactions. However, Teachstone® understands the apprehension you may feel when you learn your classroom is scheduled to be observed. Being observed while performing your job can make **anyone** feel a little nervous. But remember, this is your classroom, and the observer is your guest.

After connecting with educators like you, we have compiled information to help you prepare for your observation, alleviate any worry, and approach your classroom interactions with the same skill and attention you always do.



## What is CLASS?

CLASS defines teaching quality through nurturing classroom interactions. CLASS is used in classrooms of all ages (birth-secondary) to measure and improve educator-child interactions—the most important influence on children’s learning and development. A CLASS observation measures those interactions so educators can have the most significant impact on learning outcomes and feel supported in their growth and development.

## Who is a Certified CLASS Observer?

A CLASS-certified observer is a fellow educator who has completed an intensive multi-day training process facilitated by a Teachstone CLASS Specialist and takes annual certification tests to use the CLASS Tool. CLASS-certified observers must be mindful of their presence and minimize disruption to the classroom, ensuring a smooth and respectful observation process for everyone.

## What Does the CLASS Observation Tool Assess?

During a CLASS observation, an observer witnesses the natural behaviors and interactions between an educator and their students. The observer then uses the CLASS Tool to measure the quality of the interactions and provide improvement recommendations to ensure the most beneficial outcomes for the developmental growth of children and educators.

A CLASS Observer examines the average classroom experience of the children. All educators, including co-educators, are responsible for their respective classrooms. A CLASS Observer surveys how the children interact with their educators and peers. The children’s responses and behaviors often gauge the effectiveness of the interactions.

## How Long is the Observation?

Typically, an observation is 120 minutes. There are four 20-minute cycles. After each cycle, an observer takes 10 minutes to score.

## What Can I Expect the Day of My Scheduled Observation?

On the date and time of your scheduled observation, the CLASS Observer will introduce themselves to you and begin observation preparation. The observation will begin once 50% of your students have arrived. The observer will take notes, which aids in the scoring process. The observer will mostly remain stationary; however, as you and the children move to other areas of the room, the observer will follow you. The observer's goal is to remain as "invisible" as possible so as not to disrupt the classroom or learning environment, shift an observation, or invite interactions with themselves. This may make the observer appear removed or disconnected—and is **not** a reflection of you as an educator.

## What Do I Need to Do During the Observation?

Most importantly, be yourself. Setting your classroom routine was no easy feat, so please do not alter it. Normalcy will provide your students with a sense of comfort and security. Any changes may impact the children's behavior and natural interactions with you. CLASS Observers expect children to be children. Life is unpredictable. Things are going to happen. Observers want to see how you handle those situations, not just your ability to avoid them.

### The following activities will not be observed:

- + Art
- + Cafeteria Meals
- + Computer Lab
- + Physical Education
- + Library
- + Music
- + Pre-K Group Toilet Visits
- + Pre-K Outdoor Recess\*



### Observers will not do the following:

- + Ask educators to alter schedules, move rooms, or rearrange children
- + Conduct more than four cycles of observations
- + Conduct observations during the 10-minute scoring period
- + Engage in conversations with children or educators
- + Use their phone during observation\*\*
- + Provide feedback immediately following an observation

*\*Outdoor Recess is observed in Infant and Toddler classrooms.*

*\*\*Observers will access tools on their phones during the coding process.*

# Handling Unexpected Situations

Unexpected situations, be they minor or serious, are bound to happen from time to time. Please approach these moments with the same care you usually do—by responding authentically to children’s needs. We expect children to do what children do; therefore, the observer pays attention to how you handle these unpredictable instances.

We view an unexpected circumstance as a teaching moment. Every interaction, even in a challenging situation, can be an opportunity to grow and learn.

# What Happens After a CLASS Observation?

Depending on the program, you may receive immediate feedback or a report highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. You can always ask your administrator about how your scores will be used and how to approach the improvement process. The observation is about supporting you as the leader of your classroom so you can help your children thrive.

## Additional Resources



[What is CLASS?](#)



[CLASS Measurement Overview  
for Educators](#)



[Video | A Teacher's Take on  
CLASS Observations](#)



[Blog Post | Feedback: The Key to Connecting  
Measurement and Improvement Efforts](#)



[Podcast | What to Expect When  
You're About to Be Observed](#)