

Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS®) Infant Tool Summary

DOMAIN: RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

DIMENSION	DEFINITION
Relational Climate	Reflects the connections, emotions, and respect conveyed by teachers, as well as the infants' responses to these interactions.
Teacher Sensitivity	Encompasses teachers' awareness of and responsiveness to infants' verbal and nonverbal cues, including availability to provide comfort, skill in resolving distress, and timeliness and contingency of responses.
Facilitated Exploration	Considers teachers' facilitation of experiences and interactions in routine care and playtime to support infants' engagement and development.
Early Language Support	Captures the amount and quality of teachers' use of language stimulation and language-facilitation techniques to encourage infants' early language development.

DIMENSION	EXAMPLES
Relational Climate	Teachers and/or infants: • Create positive relationships, with behaviors including physical closeness, eye contact, and showing affection. • Express positive emotions and show genuine happiness. Teachers: • Respect infants' states with calm, gentle, and respectful communications. • Are not negative, irritable, frustrated, or rough.
Teacher Sensitivity	Teachers: • Are aware of infants' cues and acknowledge them verbally and non-verbally. • Are responsive to infants' needs and adjust their approach in response to infants' cues. Infants: • Demonstrate their comfort by looking to teachers for supportive responses when trying new things and seeking them out when upset.
Facilitated Exploration	Teachers: • Are consistently involved, joining or mirroring interactions. • Are infant-centered, following infants' leads and encouraging safe exploration. • Expand infants' experience through encouragement and enthusiasm.
Early Language Support	Teachers: • Consistently describe their own and infants' actions and events happening around the room. • Support infant communication by initiating and imitating sounds and words. • Extend infant communication by pairing words with actions and sounds and encouraging back and forth verbal exchanges.