TeachingStrategies®

Quick Guide:
Preparing for Your
CLASS® Assessment

Preparing for your *CLASS®* Assessment

Florida's Office of Early Learning (FOEL) uses program assessment to measure and improve the quality of early learning programs throughout the state. Florida leverages the *CLASS®* (Classroom Assessment Scoring System®) to achieve these goals. *CLASS®* measures teacher-child interactions in three broad domains: emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support.

Teaching Strategies believes that all children deserve a nurturing, engaging, and high-quality learning environment designed to support their unique needs throughout the critical formative years. We help early childhood educators build this environment and provide the foundation for success for every child by connecting teachers, children, and families to inspired teaching and learning experiences, informative data, and stronger partnerships through the leading early learning platform and solutions.

This guide illustrates how Teaching Strategies® solutions for curriculum, assessment, family engagement, and professional development can be used to help programs prepare for their *CLASS®* assessment.

CLASS® Domain	Emotional Support			Classroom Organization			Instructional Support		
CLASS® Dimension	Positive Climate	Teacher Sensitivity	Regard for Student Perspectives	Behavior Management	Productivity	Instructional Learning Formats	Concept Development	Quality of Feedback	Language Modeling

Curriculum

The Creative Curriculum® Research-Based, Whole-Child Curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Al's Pals™ Evidence-Based Social–Emotional Learning Curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Assessment

GOLD® Formative and Summative Assessment							✓	✓	✓

CLASS® Domain	Emotional Support			Classroom Organization			Instructional Support		
CLASS® Dimension	Positive Climate	Teacher Sensitivity	Regard for Student Perspectives	Behavior Management	Productivity	Instructional Learning Formats	Concept Development	Quality of Feedback	Language Modeling

Family Engagement

ReadyRosie® Research-Based Parenting Curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Professional Development

Teacher & Coach Memberships Research-Based Professional Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Instructor-led PD Research-Based Professional Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Noni™ Coaching App to Support Teachers, Children Impacted by Trauma	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Classroom Materials

The Essentials Kit High-Quality Classroom Materials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

CLASS® Dimensions Crosswalk

In addition to solution alignments, the table below illustrates how Teaching Strategies® on-demand eLearning courses align to *CLASS®* dimensions.

CLASS® Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish	*CLASS®* Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish*
Emotional Support: Positive Climate				**Total Hours**	**101**		
All Are Welcome: Creating a Classroom Community	5	0.5		Implementing Quality Teams	4	0.4	✓
Amazing Development: Infants	4	0.4		Learning Environment:	4	0.4	✓
Amazing Development: Toddlers	4	0.4		Nourishing Healthy Eaters in ECE	2	0.2	
Autism 101	3	0.3	✓	Nourishing Preschoolers	2	0.2	
Basics of Inclusion	3	0.3	✓	Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Building Positive Relationships	4	0.4	✓	Reflective Teacher	3	0.3	✓
Building Strong Relationships with Families	3	0.3	✓	Responsive Caregiving	2	0.2	✓
Child Assessment: Essentials of Individualizing	4	0.4	✓	Responsive Feeding for Infants & Young Toddlers	2	0.2	
Child Language Development & Signs of Delay	3	0.3	✓	Self-Care for Educators	4	0.4	✓
Creating Positive Connections	4	0.4		Teacher Leadership	3	0.3	✓
Developmental Milestones:	5	0.5	✓	Teaching with Intention	4	0.4	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	The Developing Infant and Toddler	3	0.3	✓
Enriching Indoor Environments	5	0.5		To Expel or Not to Expel	4	0.4	
Family Engagement	4	0.4	✓	Trauma Informed Practices	3	0.3	✓
Honoring All Families	4	0.4	✓				
Emotional Support: Negative Climate				**Total Hours**	**57**		
All Are Welcome: Creating a Classroom Community	5	0.5		Family Engagement	4	0.4	✓
Building Positive Relationships	4	0.4	✓	Honoring All Families	4	0.4	✓
Building Strong Relationships with Families	3	0.3	✓	Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Child Language Development & Signs of Delay	3	0.3	✓	Reflective Teacher	3	0.3	✓
Creating Positive Connections	4	0.4		Responsive Caregiving	2	0.2	✓
Cut the Cooties	2	0.2	✓	Safe Sleep and Sweet Dreams for Infants	2	0.2	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	The Developing Infant and Toddler	3	0.3	✓
Engaging Families with Social Media	4	0.4	✓	Trauma Informed Practices	3	0.3	✓
Enriching Indoor Environments	5	0.5					

CLASS® Dimensions Crosswalk

CLASS® Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish	CLASS® Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish*
Emotional Support: Teacher Sensitivity					**Total Hours**		**97**
All Are Welcome: Creating a Classroom Community	5	0.5		Honoring All Families	4	0.4	✓
Amazing Development: Infants	4	0.4		Implementing Quality Teams	4	0.4	✓
Amazing Development: Toddlers	4	0.4		Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Autism 101	3	0.3	✓	Reflective Teacher	3	0.3	✓
Basics of Inclusion	3	0.3	✓	Responsive Caregiving	2	0.2	✓
Building Positive Relationships	4	0.4	✓	Responsive Feeding for Infants & Young Toddlers	2	0.2	
Building Strong Relationships with Families	3	0.3	✓	Self-Care for Educators	4	0.4	✓
Child Assessment: Essentials of Individualizing	4	0.4	✓	Teaching with Intention	4	0.4	✓
Child Language Development & Signs of Delay	3	0.3	✓	The Developing Infant and Toddler	3	0.3	✓
Creating Positive Connections	4	0.4		To Expel or Not to Expel	4	0.4	
Developmental Milestones:	5	0.5	✓	Trauma Informed Practices	3	0.3	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	Understanding Child Abuse & Prevention	3	0.3	✓
Engaging Families with Social Media	4	0.4	✓	Your Path to Teacher Leadership	5	0.5	
Family Engagement	4	0.4	✓				
Classroom Organization: Behavior Management					**Total Hours**		**30**
All Are Welcome: Creating a Classroom Community	5	0.5		Learning Environment:	4	0.4	✓
Autism 101	3	0.3	✓	Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Challenging Behavior	3	0.3	✓	To Expel or Not to Expel	4	0.4	
Family Child Care Indoor Environment (Ch 7)	5	0.5		Trauma Informed Practices	3	0.3	✓
Classroom Organization: Productivity					**Total Hours**		**39**
Maximizing Learning Time, Routines, & Transitions							
Basics of Inclusion	3	0.3	✓	Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Child Assessment: Essentials of Individualizing	4	0.4	✓	Safe Spaces & Places to Grow & Learn	3	0.3	✓
Developmental Milestones	5	0.5	✓	School-Age Care	5	0.5	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	The Juggling Act	4	0.4	✓
Enriching Indoor Environments	5	0.5		*Preparation*			
Learning Environment	4	0.4	✓	The Juggling Act	4	0.4	✓

CLASS® Dimensions Crosswalk

CLASS® Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish	CLASS® Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish*
Classroom Organization: Instructional Learning Formats				**Total Hours**	**95**		
All Are Welcome: Creating a Classroom Community	5	0.5		Learning Environment	4	0.4	✓
Amazing Development: Infants	4	0.4		Outdoor Learning Environment	4	0.4	
Amazing Development: Toddlers	4	0.4		Phonological Awareness	4	0.4	
Autism 101	3	0.3	✓	Piramide: Enriching Play	3	0.3	
Basics of Inclusion	3	0.3	✓	Piramide: Exploring the Piramide Approach	3	0.3	
Child Assessment: Essentials of Individualizing	4	0.4	✓	Piramide: Interactive Storytelling	3	0.3	
Child Language Development & Signs of Delay	3	0.3	✓	Piramide: The Power of Play-Online	3	0.3	
Curriculum Unpacked	4	0.4	✓	Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Developmental Milestones:	5	0.5	✓	School-Age Care	5	0.5	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	STEM in the Preschool Classroom	5	0.5	✓
Enriching Indoor Environments	5	0.5		The Developing Infant and Toddler	3	0.3	✓
Family Child Care Indoor Environment	5	0.5		Trauma Informed Practices	3	0.3	✓
Inspiring Creativity	4	0.4	✓				
Instructional Support: Concept Development				**Total Hours**	**52**		
Amazing Development: Infants	4	0.4		Inspiring Creativity	4	0.4	✓
Amazing Development: Toddlers	4	0.4		Piramide: The Power of Play	3	0.3	
Child Assessment: Essentials of Individualizing	4	0.4	✓	Phonological Awareness	4	0.4	
Child Language Development & Signs of Delay	3	0.3	✓	Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Curriculum Unpacked	4	0.4	✓	School-Age Care	5	0.5	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	Teaching with Intention	4	0.4	✓
From Food to Physical Activity	4	0.4	✓	The Nuts and Bolts of Developmental Screening	3	0.3	

CLASS® Dimensions Crosswalk

CLASS® Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish	CLASS® Dimension	Hours	CEUs	Spanish*
Instructional Support: Quality of Feedback					**Total Hours**		**42**
Child Assessment: Essentials of Individualizing	4	0.4	✓	Reflective Teacher	3	0.3	✓
Child Language Development & Signs of Delay	3	0.3	✓	Responsive Caregiving	2	0.2	✓
Developmental Milestones	5	0.5	✓	STEM in the Preschool Classroom	5	0.5	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	Teaching with Intention	4	0.4	✓
Phonological Awareness	4	0.4		The Nuts and Bolts of Developmental Screening	3	0.3	
Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓	Trauma Informed Practices	3	0.3	✓
Instructional Support: Language Modeling					**Total Hours**		**48**
All Are Welcome: Creating a Classroom Community	5	0.5		Piramide: The Power of Play	3	0.3	
Amazing Development: Infants	4	0.4		Program and Classroom Assessment	3	0.3	✓
Amazing Development: Toddlers	4	0.4		Responsive Caregiving	2	0.2	✓
Child Language Development & Signs of Delay	3	0.3	✓	School-Age Care	5	0.5	✓
Dual Language Learners	3	0.3	✓	STEM in the Preschool Classroom	5	0.5	✓
Honoring All Families	4	0.4	✓	The Developing Infant and Toddler	3	0.3	✓
Phonological Awareness	4	0.4					

Regard for Student Perspectives   *The concepts addressed in this dimension are embedded throughout all courses.*

Teaching Strategies® Early Learning Solutions

Curriculum

The Creative Curriculum®
Build children's confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills with the leading research-based, whole-child curriculum that features a hands-on, investigative learning approach.

for Infants, Toddlers & Twos
for Preschool
for Kindergarten
for Family Child Care

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is a comprehensive, research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum specifically designed with the whole-child approach in mind. *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* promotes discovery and inquiry with opportunities for children to think critically and meaningfully apply skills in mathematics, language and literacy, technology, and the arts. This aligns with the *CLASS®* Instructional Support domain. The curriculum places hands-on, science and social studies project-based investigations at the core of each day. This aligns with the *CLASS®* Classroom Organization Domain. *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* offers educators embedded support and guidance to effectively scaffold learning experiences to respond to each child's current strengths and needs. This aligns with the *CLASS®* Emotional Support domain.

Teaching Strategies® Early Learning Solutions

Curriculum

Al's Pals™: Kids Making Healthy Choices
Boung children need resiliency now, more than ever. Boost social–emotional learning to prepare children for life's challenges with a comprehensive social–emotional curriculum for preschool.

Al's Pals™ is an evidence-based, comprehensive social-emotional learning curriculum and professional development program designed to meet the specific needs of preschool children. With both print and digital curriculum resources, Al's Pals™ promotes resiliency in children ages 3–6 through the development of social–emotional skills, self-control, problem-solving abilities, and healthy decision-making.

Al's Pals™ promotes protective factors, fosters the personal traits of resiliency, and encourages the nurturing environments that children need to overcome difficulties and fully develop their talents and capabilities and that help to decrease the effects of adverse childhood events and trauma. It is highly regarded as an evidence-based model prevention program with national recognition, including designation as a CASEL SELect program, a top rating from the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning in their Social-Emotional Preschool Curriculum Consumer Report, designation as a model program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and designation as an Effective School-Based Prevention Program: Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools by an expert panel from the U.S. Department of Education. Evidence demonstrates that the program is associated with positive child outcomes in social–emotional competence and coping skills.
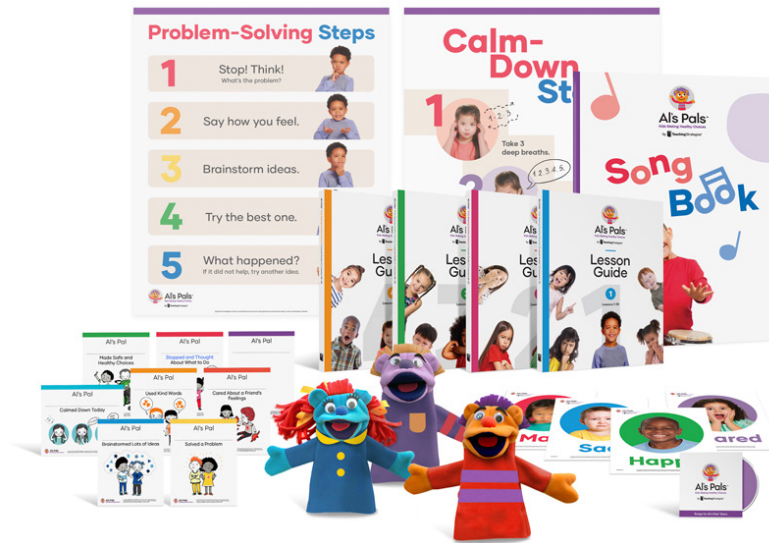
Through fun lessons, engaging puppets, original music, and effective teaching approaches, Al's Pals™

- helps young children regulate their own feelings and behavior, allowing educators more time for creative teaching by reducing the need for discipline;
- creates and maintains classroom environments that focus on caring, cooperation, respect, empathy, and responsibility;
- teaches conflict resolution and peaceful problem-solving;
- fosters autonomy with specific focus on self-control, independence, self-discipline, and self-esteem;
- promotes appreciation of differences, adaptability, and positive social relationships;
- prevents and addresses bullying behavior;
- conveys clear messages about the harms of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and
- builds children's ability to make healthy choices and cope with life's difficulties.

Curriculum

The Essentials Kit

The Essentials Kit
Provide all the right materials with one kit. Ensure each Classroom has the essential resources teachers need to guide daily learning experiences and spur investigation.

The Essentials Kit provides early childhood educators with some essential resources for supporting their instructional decisions. The teaching resources (Question of the Day, Web of Investigation, Venn diagram, *What Do We know?*, and *What Do We Want to Know?* posters) promote whole-group and small-group learning opportunities—giving teachers a variety of ways to support children's deep learning. The Essentials Kit also provides materials to help teachers organize the classroom in ways that encourage children to explore independently (Interest Area Labels and Block Labels) and support their emotional development (Positive Message Strips, SEL Posters, and Extend Learning Prompts). Additionally, The Essentials Kit elevates children's engagement by providing materials for interest areas that allow children to explore objects that might be totally new to them or experiment with familiar items that are typically used by grown-ups.

Teaching Strategies® Early Learning Solutions

Assessment

GOLD®

GOLD®
Move beyond measurement and drive differentiated, effective instruction. Inform instruction without disruption by embedding authentic, observation-based assessment into each part of your day.

GOLD® is a research-based, validated, and evidence-informed formative assessment. The assessment model used in *GOLD®* follows widely held expectations for children from birth through third grade and enables a whole-child approach to assessment. *GOLD®* has 38 objectives for development and learning in total. Color-coded progressions guide teachers toward selecting and adapting activities that support each child's development and learning. Meaningful reports inform classroom practices and enable teachers to provide individualized instruction for each child's unique learning strengths and needs. When used as intended, *GOLD®* provides teachers with opportunities to learn about children's current levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities so they can scaffold children's continued development. This aligns to the *CLASS®* Instructional Support domain.
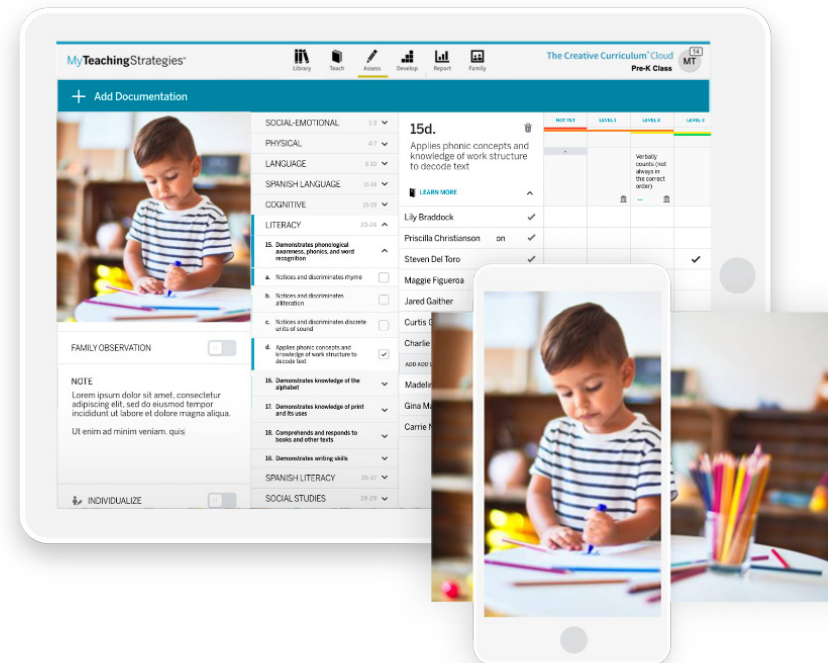
Family Engagement

ReadyRosie©
Better serve and engage all familieswith a research-based, evidence-informed early learning resource featuring video modeling to extend and reinforce learning at home.

ReadyRosie® is an evidence-informed, research-based family engagement and early learning resource that is uniquely content-driven and informed by seven essentials for transformative family partnerships. ReadyRosie®'s family curriculum is based on the latest research in child development, foundational parenting practices, family engagement, and appropriate state and national standards. ReadyRosie® Modeled Moments videos, which are filmed in English and Spanish, align with *The Creative Curriculum® Intentional Teaching Experiences* and *GOLD®* objectives for development and learning and show real families modeling fun activities that support classroom learning in authentic ways.
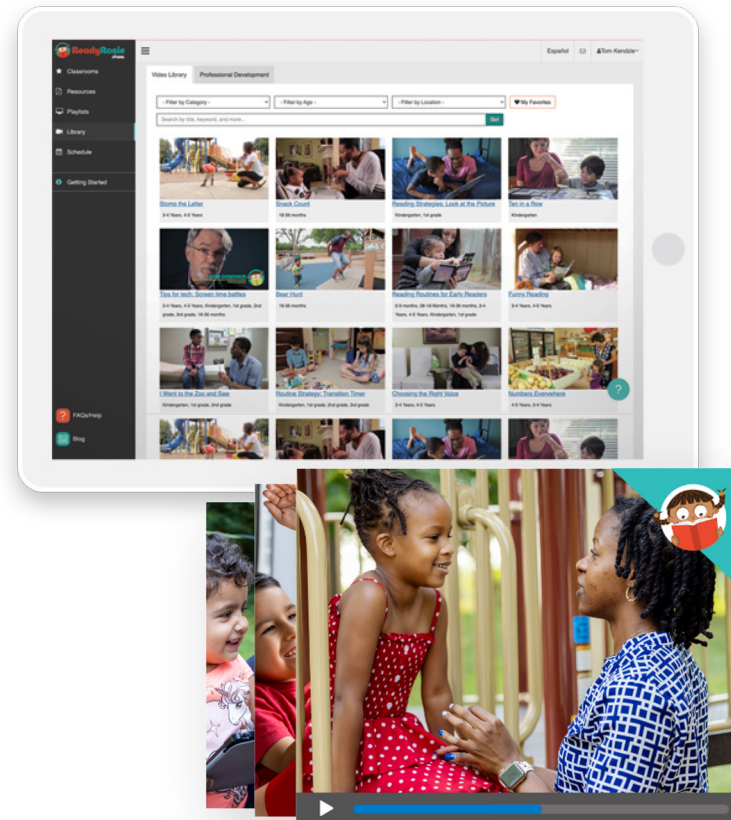
Teaching Strategies® Early Learning Solutions

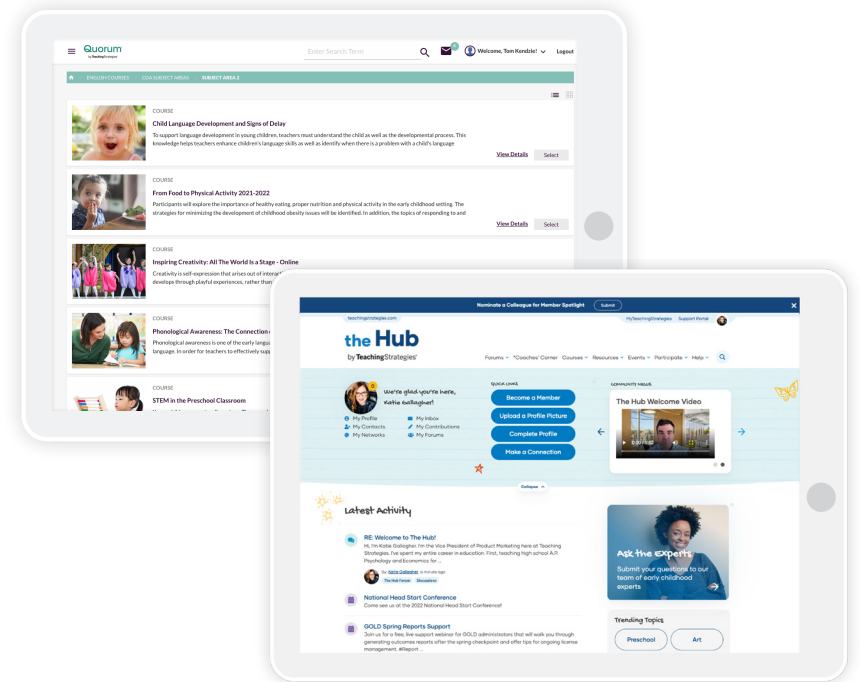## Professional Development

Teacher & Coach Memberships
Support teachers and coaches with the flexibility of anywhere, anytime learning, in a variety of formats accessible to educators whenever learning fits best, and elevate your entire coaching cycle throughout the year to boost outcomes for children with our professional development memberships.

Instructor-Led Professional Development
Build and strengthen teacher capacity and professional growth to ensure your program can provide the kind of learning environments and experiences children deserve.

Teaching Strategies' approach to supporting teachers' professional development includes leveraging the power of technology and electronic communication to help them deepen their knowledge development, support their efforts to change or improve practices, and develop valuable professional networks. Teaching Strategies' professional learning communities provide two key benefits for teachers.

• Teachers can find and build community. When an educator joins a Teaching Strategies professional learning community, they are able to connect with other educators who may bring diverse perspectives on topics and interests they are mutually interested in. Like teachers of other age groups, early childhood educators have varied backgrounds, including differing races, cultures, languages, education levels, and lived experiences. This may help teachers to learn different ways to support children in each *CLASS*™ Domain.

• Teachers have access to expert supports. For early childhood educators, being able to ask questions or otherwise seek support from someone who may have more knowledge or more experience can be a lifeline. The Teaching Strategies community connects teachers directly to a person who can provide answers to questions, assist with developing strategies, or provide guidance on how to prepare for *CLASS*™ assessment.

Professional Development

noni™

Noni™
Create trauma-sensitive, relationship-focused learning environments to mitigate the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on young children.

Just as in the parent-child relationship, the quality of the teacher-child relationship has the power to support or limit a child's development and learning. Supportive, high-quality relationships with teachers and caregivers can help children overcome the challenges associated with exposure to ACEs, trauma, and toxic stress and, in particular, help those children whose early relationships with family members may not have been positive. Children need models for their future relationships. They need to learn who they want to be; how to trust; how to love; how to be empathetic; how to enjoy a good book and find the fun in mathematics; and how to be curious, confident, engaged learners. Teachers' relationships with children have the potential to dramatically influence all of those things. That's the power of great, relationship-centered teaching for all children.

Part of a teacher's self-awareness involves examining their general teaching behaviors and actions overall and with individual children, including their tone and volume of voice, body posture, facial expressions, word choices, immediate reactions to dysregulated behaviors, amount of time spent with each child, interaction and engagement with individual children, and preferred strategies and practices for guiding children's behaviors.