



BASELINE CLASSROOM OBSERVATION PROTOCOL

The purpose of the Baseline Observation Protocol is to give teachers information about the observation and to collect classroom-level data on quality and teacher practices. The observational data collected at baseline will be used to stratify the sample prior to random assignment across research conditions, and will be used define subgroups of interest.

Overview: During baseline of the impact evaluation year, trained field staff will conduct observations in all classrooms participating in the VIQI Project. Three-hour observations will take place on two days during baseline (in fall). Field staff will follow the protocol outlined below to conduct activities prior to the start of observations: (1) Observation Scheduling, (2) Pre-Observation Protocol, and (3) Post-Observation Protocol. If due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot do in-person observations, we will attempt remote observations.

A. Observation Scheduling

Grantee/Agency Program Administrator Communications: Field staff will call, email, or send a letter to Program Administrators to give them information about the study. The following information will be included in communications with Program Administrators to schedule observations:

- Introduction to the VIQI Study: study background, importance of the study, and sponsors
- Link to the VIQI Study website
- Toll free study number and study email account for questions
- If available, the letter of support from sponsors

Center Administrator Communications: Field staff will email and call Center Administrators to give them information about the study and data collection procedures. During the phone call, they will ask Center Administrators to provide two Target Weeks during which field staff can plan to conduct observations for one day, as well as a current Center calendar with holidays listed. The following points will be included in communications with Center Administrators to schedule observations:

- Reminder about participation in the VIQI Study
- Upcoming data collection schedule and itinerary of study activities
- Request to identify two Target Weeks during which they can block their schedule for observations
- Request for Center calendar
- Request that they let selected teachers know about the observation
- If available, a VIQI Study brochure

Teacher Communications: Field staff will email, call, or send a letter to teachers to give them information about the study and data collection procedures. During the call or email, they will ask teachers to confirm the Target Weeks for observations. The following points will be included in their communications with teachers to schedule observations:

- Introduction to the VIQI Study: study background, importance of the study, and sponsors
- Description of data collection procedures in each teacher's classroom
- Confirm the Target Week dates for observations
- Toll free study number and study email account for questions

B. Pre-Observation Protocol

Overview: On the day of observations, field staff will meet with teachers to go over information about the observation, or hand them a pamphlet with the following information, and answer any questions the teacher may have:

- **Overview:** We will conduct observations in your classroom for the VIQI Study. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is 0970-0508 and the expiration date is XX/XX/XXXX. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to [Contractor Contact Name]; [Contractor Contact Address].
- **Observation Purpose:** These observations will be used to help us build evidence about how to best improve the quality of early child care and education.
- **Observation Experience:** The observations should not disrupt your classroom at all. I will be a silent observer and will stay out of your way as much as possible. At the end of the observations, I will ask you a few questions.
- **Post-Observation Questions Length:** The questions I will ask you before and after the observation will take about 18 minutes.
- **Privacy:** The research team will do everything possible to keep your identity private, to the extent permitted by law. Only the research team will view the observation data. Teacher and classroom names will never be named in reports or other publications or presentations.
- **Voluntary:** The observations and questions afterwards are voluntary. You may choose whether to participate or not, and may opt out at any point in the study. Opting out will have no job implications.

ASK LEAD TEACHER THESE QUESTIONS PRIOR TO STARTING THE OBSERVATION

1. **I have a few questions about the staff assigned to the classroom. For each position:**
 - a. How many [staff position] are assigned to the classroom on a typical day?
 - b. How many days per week does [person in position] work in this classroom?
 - c. Does [staff position] work in the classroom for the full day or part of the day?
 - d. Is [name of person in position] permanently assigned to this classroom?
 - e. Has [name of person in position] been working in this classroom since September? *If no*, In what month were they assigned to this classroom?
 - f. Is the [staff position] present today? *If no*, Is there a substitute?

NOTE: ASK TEACHER TO POINT OUT WHO IN THE ROOM HOLDS EACH POSITION.

| Staff Position | # staff assigned | # days a week | Full-day? | Permanent? | Month assigned | Absent? | Sub present? |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|----------------|---------|--------------|
| Lead Teacher(s) | | | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Assistant Teacher(s)/Para | | | £ | £ | | £ | £ |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Aide(s) | | | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Volunteer(s) | | | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Floater teacher | | | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Other | | | £ | £ | | £ | £ |

2. What is your general schedule for today?
3. If there is a new lead or assistant teacher/para in the classroom, record their name and their contact information:

| | First Name | Last Name | Contact Info (e.g., email) |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Lead Teacher | | | |
| Assistant Teacher/Para | | | |

OBSERVATION MEASURES

Overview: At baseline, there will be two days of observation. We will use the following observational measures:

- Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS): The CLASS (Pianta, La Paro, & Hamre, 2008) assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in preschool classrooms. The CLASS includes three domains of teacher-child interactions that support children’s learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) or Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3): The ECERS-R/ECERS-3 (Harms, Clifford, & Cryer, 1998; Harms, T., Clifford, R. M., & Cryer, D. (2014)) is a measure assessing different aspects of the classroom through seven subscales: (1) space and furnishings, (2) personal care routines, (3) language-reasoning, (4) activities, (5) interaction, (6) program structure, and (7) parents and staff.
- Language Interaction Snapshot (LISn): The LISn (Atkins-Burnett et al., 2011) is an observational measure for assessing language interactions in linguistically diverse early childhood programs. Observers code interactions between teachers and children, marking the language(s) in which each type of interaction occurs.
- Global Indicators of Quality (GIQ): This is a study-created observational tool designed to collect information on aspects of fidelity of implementation (e.g., dosage, adherence, quality) across all participating classrooms. It will allow us to see the degree to which unique aspects of the interventions being tested are present in classrooms assigned to the other intervention and/or control.

C. Post-Observation Protocol

Overview: Following the observation, field staff will ask teachers a series of questions about their classroom and activities.

ASK LEAD TEACHER THESE QUESTIONS AFTER FINISHING THE OBSERVATION

1. Aside from my presence in the classroom, on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not typical and 5 being very typical, would you say that today was a typical day in the classroom?

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Not typical | | | | Very typical |
| O ₁ | O ₂ | O ₃ | O ₄ | O ₅ |

2. Did you use any curricula today during the observation? Which one(s)? (check all that apply)

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No curriculum used <input type="checkbox"/> OWL <input type="checkbox"/> Building Blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Connect4Learning | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool Pathways to Science <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Model for Social Competence [Insert other curricula] <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify: _____) |
|--|--|

- i. [If yes, to any of the above, ask]: What unit and week did you teach today?

| Curriculum or Source Name* | Unit #/Name | Week # |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1) | | |
| 2) | | |
| 3) | | |
| 4) | | |
| 5) | | |

3. Do today's activities or lessons incorporate a theme or focal question?

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes [If yes, ask the following:] | <input type="checkbox"/> No [If no, go to #4:] |
|--|---|

- i. Please describe the theme(s) or focal question(s):

4. Which of the following was most influential in determining what content you taught today?

Pick one.

- What your children know and are able to do
 Your curriculum or lesson plans
 What you think the children should know

THIS QUESTION WILL BE ASKED DURING ONE OF THE TWO DAYS OF OBSERVATION:

5. Now I'd like to learn about what languages children speak in your classroom and about what proportion of children speak these languages?

| | Do children in your classroom speak this language? | If yes... What proportion of children speak this language? |
|---|---|---|
| a) English | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Yes <input type="radio"/> ₂ No | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Less than 25% <input type="radio"/> ₂ Between 25%-50% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 51%-75% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 75%-100% |
| b) Spanish | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Yes <input type="radio"/> ₂ No | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Less than 25% <input type="radio"/> ₂ Between 25%-50% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 51%-75% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 75%-100% |
| c) Haitian Creole | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Yes <input type="radio"/> ₂ No | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Less than 25% <input type="radio"/> ₂ Between 25%-50% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 51%-75% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 75%-100% |
| d) Mandarin | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Yes <input type="radio"/> ₂ No | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Less than 25% <input type="radio"/> ₂ Between 25%-50% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 51%-75% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 75%-100% |
| e) Portuguese | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Yes <input type="radio"/> ₂ No | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Less than 25% <input type="radio"/> ₂ Between 25%-50% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 51%-75% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 75%-100% |
| f) [INSERT ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR MOST COMMON LANGUAGES IN LOCALITIES WHERE VIQI WILL BE CONDUCTED] | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Yes <input type="radio"/> ₂ No | <input type="radio"/> ₁ Less than 25% <input type="radio"/> ₂ Between 25%-50% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 51%-75% <input type="radio"/> ₃ Between 75%-100% |