

# VQB5

## for Families



**VQB5 for FAMILIES** The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is a state agency that oversees birth-to-five early childhood programs including child care centers, pre-K or preschool in public schools, family day homes, and Head Start. This includes measuring the quality of programs.

### Why measure quality?

Our goal is that all Virginia children have learning experiences that prepare them for kindergarten. Measuring the quality of these learning experiences helps strengthen programs and provide important information to families.

### What is VQB5?

In response to state law, Virginia has developed VQB5 to measure and improve the quality of infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms. VQB5 is used in child care centers, family day homes, public school preschools, and Head Start sites. VQB5 helps families learn about different birth-to-five programs so they can choose a program that best meets their needs.

### How does VQB5 work?

There are two parts of VQB5.

1. Trained observers look at all classrooms using a nationally-regarded early childhood observation tool called CLASS.
  - o This observation lasts 60-80 minutes. The trained observer focuses on the interactions between teachers and children. This is not a child-level observation.
  - o Teachers receive feedback on what they are doing well and support to improve.
2. VQB5 also looks at whether classrooms are using a quality curriculum that has been approved by the state. Curriculum is always optional, and programs have lots of choices.

### Who takes part in VQB5?

Birth-to-five early childhood programs who receive government funding are required to take part in VQB5. Programs that do not receive any government funding can choose to take part.

### What does this mean if my child is enrolled in a VQB5 site?

VQB5 sites are focused on providing quality learning experiences for your child. This means your child's teacher is receiving feedback and support multiple times a year. Your site is also likely using a quality curriculum.

Starting in fall 2024, parents will be able to find information on the quality ratings for all VQB5 sites.



# VQB5

## for Families



### When will it happen?

---

What are VQB5 sites required to do? VQB5 sites are required to do the following each year:

1. Have CLASS observations in every infant, toddler, and preschool classroom in the fall and spring.
2. Report on their use of approved early childhood curriculum.
3. Provide important information about their teachers and classrooms, including child enrollment information to VDOE each fall.

### Why do VQB5 sites need to give child enrollment information?

---

State law requires the VDOE to improve learning experiences for young children so that more children can enter school ready. This information helps the VDOE better understand how all these different early learning experiences support kindergarten readiness.

### How will the privacy of my child's information be protected?

---

Federal and state laws protect how child information is used. VDOE will keep child information private and secure. VDOE will never share information in a way that would identify any child or any small group of children.

### What should I do if I have a question about VQB5 or if I'd like to learn more?

---

If you have questions about VQB5, email [vqb5@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vqb5@doe.virginia.gov). You can also find more information on the VQB5 website.

