

CLASS® Framework for Pre-K Classroom Quality			Key Foundations™ Alignment
Domain	Dimension	Indicator	
Emotional Support	Positive Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships • Positive affect • Positive communication • Respect 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help build a positive classroom climate by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validating foundational knowledge: Key Foundations™ lessons begin with language the children already have, starting with their names. This validates who they are in the world and generates peer-to-peer connections and a connection between teachers and children. • Involving children as active participants: Children are an active part of Key Foundations™ lessons, which helps every child feel seen, heard, and respected. Key Foundations™ lessons generate feelings of excitement, curiosity, and discovery. Because Key Foundations™ lessons are simple, short, and based on what children already know, they are not overwhelming or anxiety-inducing, which allows children to engage in a fun learning experience and build positive relationships. • Setting teachers up for success: Key Foundations™ lessons help teachers build a positive learning community in which each child has valued knowledge to share, children engage with and support each other, and everyone can learn something new. Key Foundations™ lessons do not require planning or preparation from teachers. Instead, teachers are free to use their energy to focus on connecting and building positive relationships with children and fostering child-to-child connections. Additionally, the structure of Key Foundations™ lessons elicits much confidence in the educator, no matter their background or level of experience. That confidence helps educators develop and maintain positive relationships in their classrooms. Key Foundations™ lessons include prompts that allow teachers to engage children in positive verbal communication by participating and answering questions.
	Teacher Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness • Responsiveness • Addresses problems • Student comfort 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help strengthen teacher sensitivity by helping teachers do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in observational and one-on-one assessments: Key Foundations™ lessons include several reliable and valid assessments that educators can use to identify individual strengths or areas where children need support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Development Skills Checklist can be used to assess children’s developmental skills, such as sensory-motor development, cognitive development, and skills related to language and literacy development. o The Foundations for Literacy Checklist helps teachers gather information about the skills children need for learning to read and write, including oral language skills, phonological and phonemic awareness, book and print knowledge, and letter and letter-sound knowledge. o The Grapheme Knowledge Assessment shows whether children can name and give the appropriate sound for alphabet letters. o The Letter Formation Assessment shows whether children can write each letter of the alphabet with correct letter formation.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect ongoing data: Children are active participants in Key Foundations™ lessons. Through their participation, teachers can collect ongoing data and provide feedback on children’s knowledge and understanding. How children engage during lessons informs teachers about which skills children have mastered and which may need extra attention. Teachers can then use the extra support lessons in Key Foundations™ with children who require more practice or support. • Validate children’s responses: Each Key Foundations™ lesson encourages teachers to incorporate positive and reassuring reflections of children’s responses during the lesson. The teacher guide provides teachers with language they can use to validate children’s responses and steer them toward the correct answer, encouraging more participation in the future. These teacher guides encourage teachers to validate an answer, even if it is incorrect, which promotes positive relationships and classroom environments.
	<p>Regard for Student Perspectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility and student focus • Support for autonomy and leadership • Student expression • Restriction of movement 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help center student perspectives by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building from children’s knowledge: Key Foundations™ lessons always begin by asking children to share what they know, giving children ownership at the beginning of each lesson. Children build the platform that teachers use to teach the lesson. • Involving children as active participants: Children are active contributors in each Key Foundations™ lesson, which leads to engagement and feelings of ownership and autonomy. • Including peer interaction: Each Key Foundations™ lesson provides opportunities for and encourages peer interaction. During these lessons, children learn to respect other people’s points of view and feel a collective sense of ownership of everyone’s contribution.
<p>Classroom Organization</p>	<p>Behavior Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear behavior expectations • Proactive • Redirection of misbehavior • Student behavior 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help center teachers with behavior management by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing a developmentally appropriate design: Key Foundations™ lessons take approximately 10 minutes, capitalizing on young children’s capacity for sustained attention. Each lesson is paced to garner and maintain children’s interest and engagement so that they are invested in each lesson. This engagement is a necessary foundation for children to experience achievement in learning. The progression of each lesson goes from the known (their name) to the unknown (the specific sounds in their name and the letters that represent them). This foundation initiates a child’s engagement and investment in the lesson, decreasing the likelihood of behaviors related to disengagement. Additionally, the structure of each lesson is consistent, which helps teachers develop a routine and helps children learn and internalize expectations for behavior.
	<p>Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizing learning time • Routines • Transitions • Preparation 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help teachers achieve productivity by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing short and developmentally appropriate lessons: Key Foundations™ consists of quick 10-minute lessons that do not require any preparation time. This allows teachers to fit Key Foundations™ lessons into their daily schedule. The short and engaging lessons capitalize on children’s attention spans and keep them focused on learning without losing engagement. Key Foundations™ offers a variety of different learning activities (books, word games, sound games, etc.) as well as follow-up activities to keep children productively engaged in learning. Because these lessons are designed to suit children’s developmental needs and abilities, teachers’ time is used efficiently to maximize learning instead of spending time on managing children’s behaviors.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being ready to implement: Key Foundations™ lessons are clearly organized, listing materials and focus skills, saving teachers preparation time, and ensuring that teachers are clear about what is being taught. Quick implementation means that teachers are free to focus their time on children’s learning and relationship building. With each lesson condensed into a single page, teachers find them manageable and purposeful, ensuring student engagement. Additionally, the structure of Key Foundations™ lessons elicits much confidence in the educator, no matter their background or level of experience. Key Foundations™ lessons are flexible to implement, and teachers can use lessons during small or large group lessons or during free play or center time. • Embedding professional development into each lesson: Each Key Foundations™ lesson includes embedded professional development so that teachers are supported as they teach. This embedded professional development includes clear learning goals, simple instructions, suggestions for reflecting on and responding to children’s answers during the activity, and ways to modify the activity to meet a child’s needs or interests.
Instructional Learning Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective facilitation • Variety of modalities and materials • Student interest • Clarity of learning objectives 		<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help teachers provide effective instructional learning formats by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using evidence-based instructional practices: Key Foundations™ lessons use research-aligned, evidence-based instructional practices that appropriately scaffold learning, from oral language to phonemic awareness to the knowledge of print. Key Foundations™ helps teachers build foundational skills, integrate them, and link them within context, which is critical for transferring knowledge. • Providing teachers with context that helps with implementation: Each Key Foundations™ lesson begins with a learning objective and focus skills that inform the teacher of the educational goals of each lesson. Then, the lesson walks teachers through introducing each concept and supporting children’s learning during the activity. • Centering child engagement: Key Foundations™ lessons always begin by asking children to share what they know, giving children ownership at the beginning of each lesson. Children are actively involved in Key Foundations™ lessons, which helps every child feel seen, heard and respected. These lessons generate feelings of excitement, curiosity, and discovery. Additionally, Key Foundations™ lessons include a variety of materials for learning, such as pre-decodable books, a Game Book, picture cards, cue cards, Alphabet Bop books, and a letters book—all of which promote engagement. • Providing modifications and extensions: Each Key Foundations™ lesson provides suggestions on ways to modify the activity to provide extra support or additional challenges for children. They also include follow-up activities to extend learning. • Including activities with multiple learning modalities: Key Foundations™ lessons include multiple modalities of learning, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Visual learning: cue cards, picture cards, letter and sound hunts, and more o Auditory learning: teacher-facilitated instructions o Kinesthetic and tactile learning: scavenger hunts, creating/drawing activities, writing activities, clapping syllables, chanting alphabet bops, and more

Instructional Support	Concept Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and reasoning • Creating • Integrating • Connections to the real world 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help with concept development by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching foundational skills for critical thinking: Language and language organization skills are the foundations for critical and higher-order thinking. Key Foundations™ lessons are scaffolded to begin with teaching children how to describe, then compare, then categorize, then make connections. When children learn language and vocabulary, they can describe things, and when they can describe things, they have the skills needed to compare. Once they can compare, they can begin to categorize, and when they can categorize, children can then begin to use analogies to make connections between things. The Key Foundations™ Game Book is structured to scaffold children’s learning of these skills in a systematic way, which lays the foundations for higher-order thinking. • Supporting teachers’ understanding and capacity to support children’s thinking: Key Foundations™ includes teacher support materials that explain how these foundational skills are developed (e.g., how language develops, how children learn, etc.). If teachers have a solid understanding of a concept, they can teach with intention, which increases their effectiveness. Key Foundations™ lessons include open-ended questions for teachers to ask children, encouraging them to think critically, engage in higher-order thinking, practice comprehension, make connections to the real world, and integrate their knowledge. • Organizing concepts in developmentally appropriate ways: Key Foundations™ lessons are organized and ordered with the intention to build upon one another in ways that support how children developmentally learn and understand concepts. • Connecting learning to the child’s world: Key Foundations™ lessons connect the learning concepts to the child’s world, as each lesson begins with what children already know and understand. Additionally, lessons offer children opportunities to explore concepts and ideas that will be new to them.
	Quality of Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaffolding • Feedback loops • Prompting thought processes • Providing information • Encouragement and affirmation 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help teachers achieve quality feedback by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing observational and one-on-one assessments: Key Foundations™ includes several reliable and valid assessments that can be used to identify individual strengths or areas that need support, including the Development Skills Checklist, the Foundations for Literacy Checklist, the Phonological and Phonemic Awareness Assessment, the Grapheme Knowledge Assessment, and the Letter Formation Assessment. Additionally, teachers can collect ongoing data and feedback on children’s knowledge and understanding through observing children as they engage with each lesson. • Scaffolding key concepts: Key Foundations™ lessons use research-aligned, evidence-based instructional practices that appropriately scaffold learning, from oral language to phonemic awareness to the knowledge of print. Key Foundations™ lessons start with what children know (oral language) and guide teachers in teaching a new skill (identifying sounds and sound patterns in words) before teaching about the letter(s) that represent the focus sound. These skills are then transferred to print, where children can practice recognizing and pronouncing letters in texts and learning to write letters correctly. • Supporting teachers’ understanding and capacity to support children’s thinking: Key Foundations™ takes an approach to learning that moves from the known (what children already know) to the unknown (what they need to learn). The Key Foundations™ teacher support materials provide context and professional development that help teachers understand how children learn new information, which supports them in effectively instructing children. This method of integrating learning helps children learn to think critically, engage in higher-order thinking, practice comprehension, and make connections to the real world.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validating foundational knowledge: Key Foundations™ lessons begin with language the children already have, starting with the pronunciation and sounds in their own names. This validates who they are in the world and generates connections, peer-to-peer connections, and a connection between teachers and children. • Encouraging teachers to be appropriately responsive to children's contributions: Each Key Foundations™ lesson encourages teachers to incorporate positive and reassuring reflections of children's responses during the lesson. The teacher guide provides teachers with language they can use to validate children's responses and steer them toward the correct answer, encouraging more participation in the future. These teacher guides encourage teachers to validate an answer, even if it is incorrect, which encourages positive relationships and classroom environments.
	Language Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent conversation • Open-ended question • Repetition and extension • Self- and parallel talk • Advanced language 	<p>Key Foundations™ lessons help teachers enhance language modeling by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on oral language: A core focus of Key Foundations™ lessons is helping children develop strong oral language skills. Oral language games are designed to systematically expand vocabulary and background knowledge and use this knowledge to develop the skills of describing, comparing, and categorizing. Scaffolded lessons and teacher support help teachers lead oral language learning appropriately and efficiently. • Providing open-ended questions: Key Foundations™ lessons include open-ended questions for teachers to ask children, encouraging them to think critically, engage in higher-order thinking, practice comprehension, make connections to the real world, and integrate their knowledge. • Starting with what children know: Each Key Foundations™ lesson is designed to progress from the known (children's names and other words they know) to the unknown (letters and letter-sound relationships). This initiates a child's engagement and investment in the lesson, supports conversation, and lays the foundation for more advanced language development. • Making conversation a key part of each lesson: The progression of each lesson encourages conversation and participation, initiating children's engagement and investment in the lesson and decreasing the likelihood of behaviors related to disengagement. Additionally, the structure of each lesson is consistent, which helps teachers develop a routine and helps children learn and internalize expectations for behavior. • Utilizing a developmentally appropriate design: Key Foundations™ lessons take approximately 10 minutes, capitalizing on young children's capacity for sustained attention. Each lesson is paced to garner and maintain children's interest and engagement so that they are invested in each lesson. • Providing modifications and extensions: Each Key Foundations™ lesson provides suggestions on ways to modify the activity to provide extra support or additional challenges for children. Additionally, all lessons include follow-up activities to extend learning. • Teaching foundational skills for critical thinking: Language and language organization skills are the foundations for critical and higher-order thinking. Key Foundations™ lessons are scaffolded to teach children to use their vocabulary knowledge to describe, then compare, then categorize, then make connections. The Key Foundations™ Game Book is structured to scaffold children's language learning in a systematic way, which lays the foundations for higher-order thinking.

• **Supporting teachers' understanding and capacity to support children's thinking:** Key Foundations™ takes an approach to learning that moves from the known (what children already know) to the unknown (what they need to learn). The Key Foundations™ teacher support materials provide context and professional development that help teachers understand how children learn new information, which supports them in providing effective instruction. This method of integrating learning helps children learn to think critically, engage in higher-order thinking, practice comprehension, and make connections to the real world.