

Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes (PICCOLO™)

What is PICCOLO?

The PICCOLO focuses on the interactions between adults and children. Adult-child relationships during the early childhood years predict future success in school and in life. PICCOLO gathers information about positive adult-child interactions that support children's development through talking and play. The use of PICCOLO helps adults see the value of supportive interactions, identifies strengths, and guides program planning. Although titled "Parenting Interactions," research supports the use of PICCOLO in measuring staff-child interactions in all childcare settings. The assessment process focuses on practices within these four domains:

- Affection
- Responsiveness
- Encouragement
- Teaching

Which program(s) could use the PICCOLO?

All childcare settings that want to increase supportive staff-child interactions. PICCOLO focuses on interactions between teachers and children from three to seventy-three months of age.

PICCOLO Assessment Process

External PICCOLO assessments are conducted by a reliable PICCOLO assessor from the Program Quality Assessment (PQA) team.

Internal PICCOLO assessments are conducted by the program's internal assessment (IA) team. The program's IA team partners with the Quality Coach and PICCOLO Assessor when planning for and conducting internal assessment and when analyzing the information collected during the internal assessment process. Please see [How to Conduct an Internal Assessment Using the PICCOLO](#) for detailed information on using the PICCOLO for internal assessment.

The PICCOLO assessment process measures staff-child interactions within the four domains through short observations during a variety of activities.

How does the PICCOLO support continuous quality improvement (CQI)?

Information gathered during a PICCOLO assessment can be used by the program to help identify positive staff-child interactions that support children's development through talking and play, as well as areas for growth. The information gathered can also be used to help create the program's continuous quality improvement plan.

Additional Information/Training

- [Brookes Publishing \(brookespublishing.com/piccolo\)](https://brookespublishing.com/piccolo)
- [How to Conduct an Internal Assessment Using PICCOLO \(pakeys.org/how-to-piccolo\)](https://pakeys.org/how-to-piccolo)
- [Facilitated Program Observation Instrument Orientation Request \(FPO\) \(pakeys.org\)](https://pakeys.org)
- [Program Quality Assessment Professional Development \(pakeys.org/pqa/professional-development\)](https://pakeys.org/pqa/professional-development)