

Strong Beginnings

Quick Start Guide Section 4: Early Childhood Specialist

Most ECS requirements

- Experience and education with infants, toddlers and young preschoolers preferred.
- Qualified ECSs may support both Strong Beginnings and GSRP classrooms if have sufficient time to do so
- ECSs must be Certified Observers in the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) which is used to assess quality in all Strong Beginnings classrooms.

Most ECS expectations

- Strong Beginnings ECSs should also be familiar with the sections of the Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Birth to Kindergarten dealing with two- and three-year-old-children and the Strong Beginnings Pilot Implementation Manual.
- Strong Beginnings ECS should meet at least 3 times per year with the teaching team and Family Liaison to facilitate sharing of information and clarifying each person's role and responsibilities. They should facilitate completion of the Roles and Responsibilities Chart at the beginning of the school year.
- ECS plans specific professional learning that is geared toward the age and developmental level of children in Strong Beginnings
- If teaching team is new to sub-recipient or new to Strong Beginnings, ECS conducts a full program evaluation tool (CLASS) in the fall.
- If a classroom has a Behavioral Consultant, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant or third adult, the ECS ensures that these individuals provide appropriate assistance and support in the classroom.