

Measuring Positive Classroom Learning Behaviors in Kindergarten: A Predictor of School Success

The US Department of Education oversees the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study. This investigation includes periodic national samplings of children starting kindergarten to determine their average level of 'positive approaches to learning behaviors' (Kena et al., 2016). Teachers rate the frequency with which their young students display 7 specific behaviors that support learning, using a scale of 1 to 4 (1=Never; 2=Sometimes; 3=Often; 4=Very Often).

In 2010, students surveyed received an average rating of '3' on all behaviors. However, there was also significant variation across children sampled at the outset of their kindergarten year (Kena et al., 2016):

- 26 percent received an average rating of 4.
- 49 percent received an average rating of 3.
- 24 percent received an average rating of 2.
- 1 percent received an average rating of 1.

Ratings on this behavior scale were found to predict students' school academic performance across the primary grades (Kena et al., 2016). While the actual rating scale used in this longitudinal study is not accessible, the rating scale below was constructed to include all 7 behaviors tracked in the investigation.

Positive Classroom Learning Behaviors

The student:

1. pays attention in class. || 1/Never....2/Sometimes...3/Often...4/Very Often
2. persists in completing tasks. || 1/Never....2/Sometimes...3/Often...4/Very Often
3. shows eagerness to learn new things. || 1/Never....2/Sometimes...3/Often...4/Very Often
4. works independently. || 1/Never....2/Sometimes...3/Often...4/Very Often
5. adapts easily to changes in routine. || 1/Never....2/Sometimes...3/Often...4/Very Often
6. keeps belongings organized. || 1/Never....2/Sometimes...3/Often...4/Very Often
7. follows classroom rules. || 1/Never....2/Sometimes...3/Often...4/Very Often

Kena, G., Hussar W., McFarland J., de Brey C., Musu-Gillette, L., Wang, X., Zhang, J., Rathbun, A., Wilkinson-Flicker, S., Diliberti M., Barmer, A., Bullock Mann, F., and Dunlop Velez, E. (2016). *The condition of education 2016* (NCES 2016-144). U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Washington, DC. Retrieved [date] from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>.