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## CSS background color not working

I set the background color of the outer div to blue but it is not displayed. Why?

### CSS

```
.question-template {  
  width: auto;  
  height: auto;  
  background-color: blue;  
}  
.question {  
  float: left;  
  margin: 10px;  
}  
.participants {  
  background-color: green;  
  float: left;  
  margin: 10px;  
}
```

### HTML

```
<body>  
<div class="question-template">  
  <div class="participants">234</div>  
  <div class="question">Some lorem ipsum text</div>  
</div>  
</body>
```

A demo of it <http://jsfiddle.net/4zjtp/>

CSS

asked Oct 29 '12 at 8:54



SamB

449 3 12 27

## 5 Answers

Try like this..

```
.question-template {  
  width: auto;  
  height: auto;  
  background-color: blue;  
  overflow: auto;  
}
```

answered Oct 29 '12 at 9:01



Xavier

951 3 16 39

Now when I specify the width of the question-template and increase the length of the question, the text goes down below the participants div. How can I make it stay on the same line? – SamB Oct 29 '12 at 9:20

You can use display:inline-block. – Xavier Oct 29 '12 at 9:40

that didn't seem to work. [jsfiddle.net/4zjtp/15](http://jsfiddle.net/4zjtp/15) – SamB Oct 29 '12 at 20:51

It's because both of your child elements are floated left. This means that the container won't stretch to the full height needed to contain the child elements.

To solve this you need to add a clearfix class such as this to your css:

```
.clearfix:after {  
  content: "";  
  display: table;  
  clear: both;  
}
```

And then add the class to your HTML like this:

```
<div class="question-template clearfix">
```

See here for more info: <http://css-tricks.com/snippets/css/clear-fix/>

answered Oct 29 '12 at 8:59



adamdougall

173 8

[Live demo](#)..... Hi now define your **parent div** .question-template

```
overflow:hidden;
```

```
.question-template{
overflow:hidden;
}
```

### Method two

now clear your parent

### Css

```
.clr{
clear:both;
}
```

### HTML

```
<div class="question-template">
<div class="participants">234</div>
<div class="question">Some lorem ipsum text</div>
  <div class="clr"></div>
</div>
```

[Live demo](#)

answered Oct 29 '12 at 8:55



Rohit Azad

23.1k 11 41 73

You need to apply a clear the float on the parent div to make sure that it occupies the inner elements. You could either insert a `<div style="clear:left;"></div>` before the parent closes or apply a clearfix class on the parent div.

```
.clearfix:after {
  content: ".";
  display: block;
  clear: both;
  visibility: hidden;
  line-height: 0;
  height: 0;
}

.clearfix {
  display: inline-block;
}

html[xmlns] .clearfix {
  display: block;
```

```
}  
  
* html .clearfix {  
    height: 1%;  
}
```

Then you just add the clearfix class to the parent div

```
...  
<div class="question-template clearfix">  
...
```

[Working Example](#)

answered Oct 29 '12 at 9:01



[Pranav](#) 𐄂

6,419 3 30 44

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Add `overflow:auto` to `.question-template`

<http://jsfiddle.net/4zjtp/2/>

answered Oct 29 '12 at 8:57



[mshsayem](#)

9,527 4 36 55