Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) 102
Introduction to the CLASS Dimensions
### CLASS Webinar Series - Scope & Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **CLASS 101** | • Why the DECE uses the CLASS tool  
• What the CLASS tool measures  
• What to expect before, during, and after a CLASS assessment  
• What resources are available to support you |
| **CLASS 102** | • How staff-child interactions contribute to child outcomes  
• What effective interactions look like in Emotional Support and Classroom Organizational CLASS domains  
• Strategies for improving interactions in the Regard for Student Perspectives and Instructional Learning Formats dimensions |
| **CLASS 103** | • Why Instructional Support is important  
• What effective interactions look like in this domain  
• Strategies for improving Concept Development, Quality of Feedback, and Language Modeling dimensions |
| **CLASS 104** | • How to read and interpret your CLASS report  
• How to use CLASS data and recommendations to inform pre-K program goals |
CLASS 102 - Objectives

- Review how the CLASS tool is organized and what it measures
- Identify what effective interactions look like in the Emotional Support Domain and the Classroom Organization Domain, and how to improve interactions in each
- Learn how to use the CLASS Dimensions Guide to support your understanding of CLASS dimensions
CLASS organizes interactions into three broad categories or domains and further into ten dimensions.

**Domains**
- Emotional Support
- Classroom Organization
- Instructional Support

**Dimensions**
- Positive Climate, Negative Climate, Teacher Sensitivity, Regard for Student
- Behavior Management, Productivity, Instructional
- Concept Development, Quality of Feedback, Language
How the CLASS is scored

• Frequency, depth and duration (Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Depth</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How often interactions occurred during an observation cycle</td>
<td>How impactful/powerful these interactions were during an observation cycle</td>
<td>How long interactions took place during an observation cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How the CLASS is Scored

- Each dimension is rated on a scale of 1-7 (Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low-range (1-2)</th>
<th>Mid-range (3-5)</th>
<th>High-range (6-7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimension was never evident or instances when this dimension was evident were brief and lacked depth during the observation cycle.</td>
<td>Dimension was observed but not consistently, not in a way that included all children, or sometimes were brief and lacked depth during the observation cycle.</td>
<td>Dimension was reflected in all or most classroom activities, included most children, and often sustained depth and duration during the observation cycle.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Frequency, depth, and duration of interactions is important**
CLASS Dimensions Guide

Positive Climate

What is it?
In classrooms with a strong positive climate, teachers and children are enthusiastic about learning and teaching. It is a dynamic, flowing environment where children learn, grow, and develop social and emotional skills. In these classrooms, social and emotional support is provided, and children enjoy being in the classroom. The classroom structure helps children to feel safe and secure.

Why is it important?
Children are more motivated to learn when they feel happy, safe, and connected to others. They grow more out of lessons when they feel excited about participating. When the classroom climate is positive, children have a greater sense of belonging, and they enjoy learning and interacting with each other and are able to get the most out of their time together.

How can I create a more positive climate in my classroom?
Enjoy time with children.
Share in fun activities with children, during free time or while waiting to lunch, take time to interact with children and enjoy being with them.
Make learning fun.
Look for opportunities to make everyday learning activities fun for children. Think about things that make children laugh and smile and find ways to integrate these things into everyday activities.
Show your enthusiasm.
Make sure you let the children know that you enjoy your job and are spending time with them. If you are not excited, other children will notice. Enthusiasm is contagious!

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Emotional Support
Emotional Support Domain

- How staff promote children’s social and emotional development in the classroom
- Four dimensions:
  - Positive Climate
  - Negative Climate
  - Teacher Sensitivity
  - Regard for Student Perspectives

- Aligns with EFO: Respect and value differences (1) and Create safe and positive environment (2)

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Dimensions Guide
Page 4 & 5
Positive Climate

Reflects the emotional connection between staff and children and among children and the warmth, respect and enjoyment communicated by verbal and nonverbal interactions.

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Positive Climate

What this looks like in a 3-K and pre-K classroom:

• It is clear that both staff and children are happy and excited to be at school
• There are many instances of staff and children smiling and laughing
• Staff provides verbal and/or physical affection and communicates positive expectations for children
• Children and staff are respectful in their interactions with one another  
  
  (Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Dimensions Guide
Page 6 & 7
Negative Climate

Reflects the overall level of expressed negativity in the classroom; the frequency, quality, and intensity of staff and peer negativity are key to this scale.

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Negative Climate

Note: Scores in this dimension are seen in reverse. A high score reflects HIGH negativity in the classroom and a low score reflects LOW negativity.

What this looks like in a 3-K and pre-K classroom:

- Staff is irritable, resorting to yelling, sarcasm and threats to maintain control
- Children engage in peer aggression
- Children victimize each other, bullying is likely present
- Staff engages in victimizing, bullying and/or physically punishing children.

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Dimensions Guide
Page 8 & 9
Teacher Sensitivity

Encompasses the staff’s awareness of and responsivity to children’s academic and emotional needs; high levels of sensitivity facilitate children’s ability to actively explore and learn because staff consistently provides comfort, reassurance, and encouragement.

Awareness
Addresses Problems

Responsiveness
Student Comfort

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Teacher Sensitivity

What this looks like in a 3-K and pre-K classroom:

• Staff is aware and responsive to children’s social, emotional, and academic needs

• Staff attends to children’s verbal and nonverbal cues, indicating where they may need support

• Children regularly seek out staff as a source of support and comfort in the classroom
Dimensions Guide
Page 9 & 10
Regard for Student Perspectives
Captures the degree to which the staff’s interactions with children and classroom activities place an emphasis on children’s interests, motivations, and points of view and encourage student responsibility and autonomy.

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Regard for Student Perspectives

What this looks like in a 3-K and pre-K classroom:
• Staff are flexible, regularly incorporating children’s ideas and input
• There are ample intentional and authentic opportunities for children’s autonomy and leadership
• Children have many opportunities to share their ideas and opinions
• Children have opportunities to move around

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
## Regard for Student Perspectives: Large group vs. Center Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>During Center Time:</th>
<th>During Large Group Time:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Children choose their own centers and can make decisions about how they want to play.</td>
<td>• Children are given some choices, such as which song to sing, and/or given some responsibilities, such as taking attendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Staff follows children’s ideas in play.</td>
<td>• Staff incorporates children’s ideas into lessons and activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Children are frequently asked to share their perspectives about their play.</td>
<td>• Children are regularly asked to share their perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Children are allowed to freely move around the room.</td>
<td>• Children are free to sit how and where they want on the rug</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Classroom Organization
Classroom Organization Domain

- How staff manage children’s behavior, time, and attention
- Three dimensions:
  - Behavior Management
  - Productivity
  - Instructional Learning Formats

- Aligns with EFQ: Create safe and positive environment (2) and Advance play-based learning and responsive instruction (3)
- Aligns with Statement on Positive Behavior Guidance

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Dimensions Guide
Page 12 & 13
Behavior Management

Emcompasses the staff’s ability to provide clear behavioral expectations and use effective methods to prevent and redirect misbehavior.

Clear Behavior Expectations

Proactive

Redirection of Misbehavior

Student Behavior

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Behavior Management

What this looks like in a 3-K and pre-K classroom:

• There are clear, consistent expectations understood by all members of the classroom community

• Staff anticipates misbehavior and responds to misbehavior by focusing on the positive

• Children follow directions and there is little aggression or defiance

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Productivity

Considers how well staff manages instructional time and routines and provides activities for children so that they have the opportunity to be involved in learning activities.

Maximizing Learning Time

Routines

Transitions

Preparation

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Productivity

What this looks like in a 3-K and pre-K classroom:

• The classroom resembles a well-oiled machine, where everyone knows what is expected of them

• Children have something to do

• Staff knows lessons and ensures materials are readily accessible

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Dimensions Guide
Page 16 & 17
Instructional Learning Formats

Focuses on the ways in which staff maximizes children’s interest, engagement, and ability to learn from lessons and activities.

- **Effective Facilitation**
- **Variety of Modalities and Materials**
- **Student Interest**
- **Clarity of Learning Objectives**

(Pre-K for All)
Instructional Learning Formats

What this looks like in a 3-K and pre-K classroom:

• Staff engages with children and involves them in activities by asking questions, and participating in their play and classroom activities.

• Staff uses a variety of materials, hands-on opportunities, and provides a range of auditory, visual, and movement opportunities in order to involve children in activities.

• Learning objectives are clear and children know what they are doing and why.

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
What is Clarity of Learning Objectives?

• Clear learning objectives help children stay focused and engaged

• Examples of strategies include:
  • **Advanced organizers** - Staff informs children about what they are about to learn and/or do before beginning an activity or a lesson
  • **Summaries** - Staff summarizes for children what they just learned and/or did after completing an activity or a lesson
  • **Reorientation statements** - Staff reminds children of what they are doing and why during an activity or a lesson

(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
### Clarity of Learning Objectives: Large group vs. Center Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>During Center Time:</th>
<th>During Large Group Time:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Staff asks children questions based on the activity children are interested and involved in.</td>
<td>- Staff asks children questions related to the lesson/activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Staff explains the materials added to a center and how they could be used.</td>
<td>- Staff states and refocuses children’s attention toward the objective of a lesson/activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- At the end of Center Time, staff summarizes what children did during their play.</td>
<td>- Staff summarizes what children learned right after a lesson/activity.</td>
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(Pianta, La Paro & Hamre, 2008)
Additional Resources - CLASS 102

- Statement on Positive Behavior Guidance in Pre-K for All and EarlyLearn NYC Programs
- What Does Regard for Student Perspectives Look Like in a Group Activity?
- How to Show Regard for the Wiggle-Worms
- Teacher Tips: Balancing Regard and Organization
Additional Resources – General

Other CLASS webinars, trainings and useful resources


CLASS Dimensions Guide

Teachstone resource page
http://teachstone.com/resources/

Questions? Email: programassessment@schools.nyc.gov
Thank you!

Email any further questions to:
programassessment@schools.nyc.gov