Introduction
to the Infant
CLASS® Tool
The CLASS Measure: Observing What Matters
Elements of Classrooms
Influencing Learning

Structure
What? Who? Where?
Curriculum
Standards
Materials
Training and education

Process
How?
Implementation
Interactions
Relationships

Outcomes
Children’s learning and development
The CLASS Observation Tool

The CLASS tool is a research-based observation tool used to help teachers and schools improve the effectiveness of classroom interactions.
Creating a Shared Lens

The CLASS tool provides a common language and shared lens for teachers, coaches, observers, researchers, and administrators.
Benefits of Using the CLASS Tool

- Captures the complexity of classrooms
- Views and measures effective teacher-child interactions
- Aligns measurement with professional development that produces effective teaching and learning gains
The Early Achievement Gap

Differences between the learning and development of at-risk children and more advantaged children are evident as early as 9 months and increase by 24 months of age.

Halle, et al. (2009)
Influences on Early Development

- Physical characteristics
- Family
- Child care experiences
Importance of Relationships

Young children experience their world as an environment of relationships, and these relationships affect virtually all aspects of their development—intellectual, social, emotional, physical, behavioral, and moral. The quality and stability of a child's human relationships in the early years lay the foundation for a wide range of later developmental outcomes that really matter—self-confidence and sound mental health, motivation to learn, achievement in school and later in life ...

Infant Development
Defining Infant

- Birth to 18 months old
- Rapid development
- Dependent on adults to meet physical, cognitive, and emotional needs
Regulating Emotions

- Infants are other-regulated.
- Nurturing caregiving sets the stage for the development of self-regulation.
The Importance of Attachment

• Attachment develops over time.
• By six months of age, most infants have developed specific attachments to others.
• Secure attachments set the stage for infants’ later successes.
The Importance of Temperament

Temperament Types

• Flexible
• Fearful
• Feisty
How Infants Learn

• Contingent responding
• Joint attention
• Sensorimotor learning
Cue Detection
Cue Detection Activity

• Watch a classroom video with sound off.
• Notice and share infant cues.
• Watch the same video with sound on.
• Notice and share teacher responses.
• Debrief and reflect.
Young Infancy (Birth to 9 Months)

• Security
• First face-to-face interactions
Older Infancy (8 to 18 months)

- Exploration
- Using caregiver as secure base
Responsive Caregiving Domain
What Is Responsive Caregiving?

How teachers

• Develop warm, happy, and respectful relationships with infants
• Are aware of and responsive to infants’ needs
• Help infants engage in learning opportunities and exploration
• Facilitate infants’ language development
Infant CLASS Domain

Responsive Caregiving

Relational Climate
Teacher Sensitivity
Facilitated Exploration
Early Language Support
Infant CLASS Dimensions

Relational Climate

- Relational behaviors
- Emotion expression
- Respect for infants’ state
- Lack of adult negativity
Infant CLASS Indicators

Relational behaviors

Behavioral Markers

- Proximity
- Eye contact
- Joint attention
- Affection
Relational Climate

Reflects the connections, emotions, and respect conveyed by teachers as well as the infants’ responses to these interactions
During the video, refer to your *Infant CLASS Dimensions Guide*.

*Having Fun While Playing with a Basket*
Teacher Sensitivity

Encompasses teachers’ awareness of and responsiveness to infants’ verbal and nonverbal cues, including availability to provide comfort, skill in resolving distress, and timeliness and contingency of responses.
Teacher Sensitivity
Video Example

During the video, refer to your dimensions guide.

Demonstrating Awareness of Many Infants
Facilitated Exploration

Considers teachers’ facilitation of experiences and interactions in routine care and playtime to support infants’ engagement and development
Facilitated Exploration
Video Example

During the video, refer to your dimensions guide.

Facilitating Exploration While Playing with Phones
Early Language Support

Captures the amount and effectiveness of teachers’ use of language-stimulation and language-facilitation techniques to encourage infants’ early language development
During the video, refer to your dimensions guide.