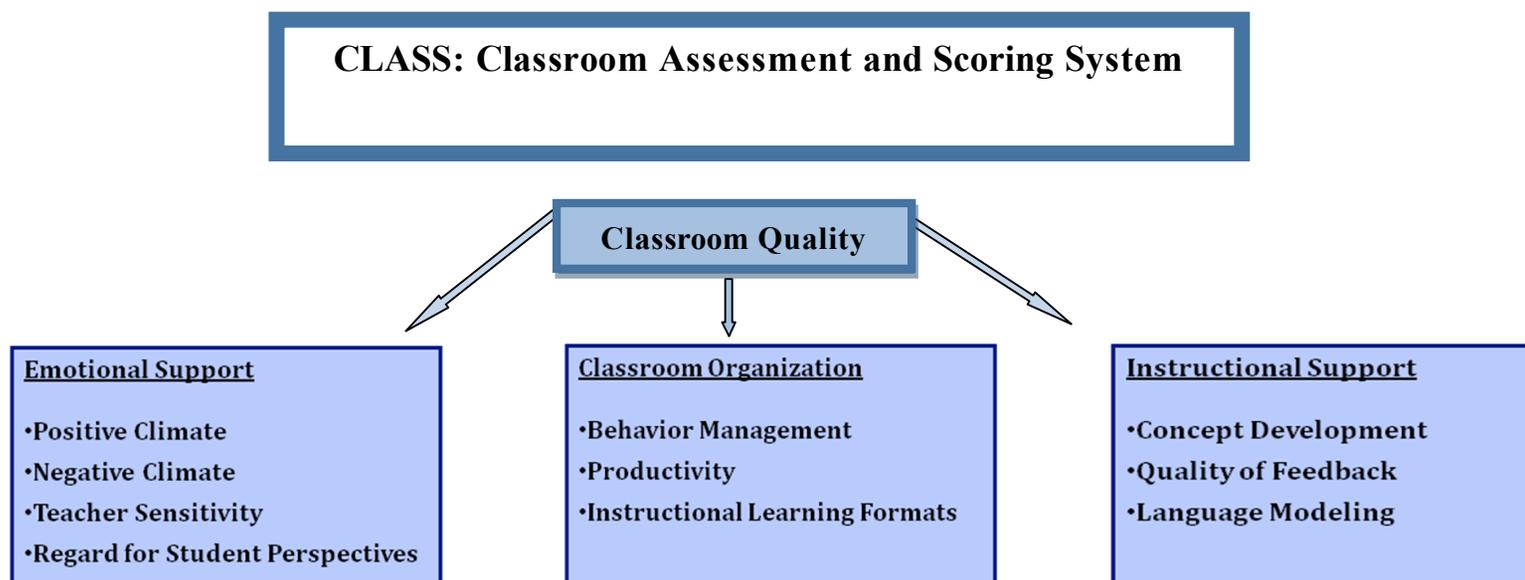Center for Early Education and Development

Overview of the CLASS

The *Classroom Assessment Scoring System PreK* (CLASS PreK; Pianta, La Paro, & Hamre, 2005) is a system for observing and assessing the quality of interactions between teachers and students in preschool classrooms. The CLASS examines social-emotional and instructional interactions that contribute to student's social competence and academic achievement. The CLASS measure includes 10 subscales organized into three domains: (1) *Emotional Support*, **(2) Classroom Organization, and (3)** *Instructional Support.* Each subscale is scored on a 7-point scale, with a score of 1 and 2 considered to be in the low-range; 3, 4, and 5 are mid-range; and 6 and 7 are high range.

CLASS: Classroom Assessment and Scoring System

Classroom Quality

Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
•Positive Climate	•Behavior Management	•Concept Development
•Negative Climate	•Productivity	•Quality of Feedback
•Teacher Sensitivity	•Instructional Learning Formats	•Language Modeling
•Regard for Student Perspectives		

Emotional Support
What is Positive Climate?
Classrooms have a high positive climate when teachers and students:
*   Have positive relationships with one another and clearly enjoy being together.
*   Are enthusiastic about learning and spending time in the classroom.
*   Are respectful of one another.

What is Negative Climate?
Classrooms have a high negative climate when teachers and students:
*   Get frequently irritated and angry with one another.
*   Are not able to diffuse negative situations such that these situations escalate.
*   Make fun of one another in mean spirited ways.

What is Teacher Sensitivity?
Teachers are sensitive when they:
*   Consistently respond to students and are effective in addressing students' questions, concerns, and needs.
*   Know their students well enough (academically and socially) to anticipate areas of difficulty and provide appropriate levels of support.
*   Help students see adults as a resource and create an environment in which students feel safe and free to explore and learn.

What is Regard for Student Perspectives?
Teachers with a high regard for students' perspectives:
*   Place an emphasis on students' interests, motivations, and points of view
*   Promote students' autonomy
*   Encourage students to talk and share their ideas

Instructional Support
What is Concept Development?
Students gain the most in-depth understanding of concepts when teachers:
*   Focus on the process of learning, rather than concentrating solely on rote instruction and recall of facts.
*   Provide students with opportunities to use analysis and reasoning in their approach to problems.
*   Bring concepts to life by applying them to students' everyday world.

What is Language Modeling?
In classrooms offering high quality Language Modeling, teachers:
*   Intentionally encourage, respond to, and expand on student talk .
*   Engage in meaningful conversations with students.
*   Consistently expose students to a variety of language uses and forms.

Classroom Organization
What is Behavior Management?
Students are most likely to behave appropriately in the classroom when:
*   Rules and expectations are clearly and consistently communicated.
*   Behavior management is proactive, rather than reactive.
*   Students receive consistent praise for meeting expectations.

What is Productivity?
Highly productive classrooms:
*   Have clearly defined learning activities provided for students throughout the day.
*   Everyone knows what is expected of them and how to go about doing it.
*   Transitions happen quickly and efficiently.

What are Instructional Learning Formats?
Teachers provide high quality learning formats when they:
*   Provide interesting and stimulating materials and instruction.
*   Provide instruction using many modalities
*   Look for opportunities to actively engage students

What is Quality of Feedback?
Feedback to students works best when it:
*   Is focused on the process of learning, rather than simply on getting the right answer.
*   Provides students with specific information about their work.
*   Helps students reach a deeper understanding of concepts than they could get on their own.