

## Georgia's Pre-K has CLASS!

It is the daily interactions between teachers and children that promote children's social and cognitive development. Children thrive when teachers create nurturing, well-managed settings and provide frequent and engaging opportunities to learn. Pianta, R.C., La Paro, K.M., & Hamre, B.K. (2009) *Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Manual*, Pre-K. Baltimore: Paul H. Brooks.

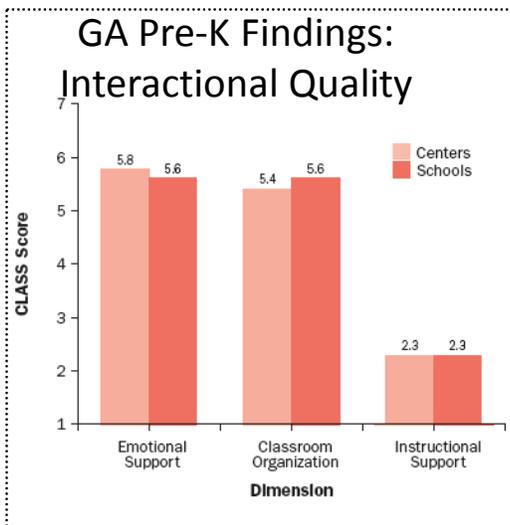
# The CLASS in Georgia's Pre-K 2011-2012

## UNC-Chapel Hill Georgia Study of Early Care and Education

Nationally renowned researchers from the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill conducted a statewide, representative study of quality across licensed child care centers and Georgia's Pre-K programs. Data was collected in 2008 and 2009. The resulting Georgia Study of Early Care and Education findings provide scientific evidence for where further investments are needed while validating Bright from the Start's current initiatives designed to improve quality in all early learning environments across the state.

Access to the full study can be found at [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).

The "high" scores on the CLASS in the domains of Emotional Support and Classroom Organization suggest that Georgia's Pre-K classes are generally warm, enjoyable places for children, where students are generally well-behaved and are interested and engaged in learning tasks. The "low" scores on Instructional Support suggest that programs do not offer many activities that promote analysis and reasoning, and rarely talk with children in a way that expands their understanding of concepts or uses advanced language.



### How was the CLASS be implemented during the 2010-2011 school year?

The CLASS was used in each of Georgia's Pre-K Classrooms during the 2010-2011 school year in order to obtain a wide sample of baseline data. The CLASS was completed utilizing four twenty minute observations, each followed by a 10 minute coding period. Repeated observation cycles help establish an accurate, complete picture of the classroom. For the 2010-2011 school year CLASS reports were emailed directly to the Project Directors.

### How do we know that the CLASS measures effective teaching?

Research in thousands of early childhood classrooms across the country and shows that children in classrooms that score higher on the CLASS make greater gains in language, math, and early literacy development. Children in these higher-scoring classrooms also show more positive social development over the course of the year than their peers in lower-scoring classrooms.

### How will CLASS be used during 2011-2012 school year?

- 1/3 of the Pre-K classrooms will be monitored using the CLASS
- Professional Development will target Instructional Support Domain
- Race to the Top

### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ?

[www.class.teachstone.org](http://www.class.teachstone.org)  
[www.classobservation.com](http://www.classobservation.com)