Alignment of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) for Preschool With HighScope's Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA)

The following chart shows how items from the **Classroom Assessment Scoring System** (**CLASS**)¹ correspond to items from HighScope's **Preschool Program Quality Assessment** (**PQA**).

The **Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA)** is a rating instrument designed to evaluate the quality of early childhood programs and identify staff training needs. The **Preschool PQA** is reliable and valid and is appropriate for use in all center-based early childhood programs. The **Preschool PQA** covers 63 dimensions of program quality in 7 domains: *learning environment, daily routine, adult-child interaction, curriculum planning and assessment, parent involvement and family services, staff qualifications and development, and program management.* The **Preschool PQA** can be used as a basis for program accreditation, reporting, monitoring, and training.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality in preschool through third-grade classrooms. The **CLASS** consists of 3 domains — *emotional support, classroom organization,* and *instructional support* — that incorporate 10 dimensions of teacher-student interactions.

¹ Pianta, Robert C., Karen M. LaParo, and Bridget K. Hamre. (2009). *Classroom Assessment Scoring System Scoring Manual*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

Emotional Support	
Positive Climate Relationships • Physical proximity • Shared activities • Peer assistance • Matched affect • Social conversation	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-B. Children's separation from home and daily entry to the program are handled with sensitivity and respect. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children.
 Positive affect Smiling Laughter Enthusiasm Positive communication Verbal affection Physical affection Positive expectations 	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication.
Respect • Eye contact • Warm, calm voice • Respectful language • Cooperation and/or sharing	 III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English.

Preschool Program Quality Assessment

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Negative Climate Negative affect Irritability Anger Harsh voice Peer aggression	 <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-B. Children's separation from home and daily entry to the program are handled with sensitivity and respect. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children.
 Disconnected or escalating negativity Punitive control Yelling Threats Physical control Harsh punishment 	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-B. Children's separation from home and daily entry to the program are handled with sensitivity and respect. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children.
Sarcasm/disrespect Sarcastic voice/statement Teasing Humiliation Severe negativity Victimization Bullying Physical punishment 	 <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-B. Children's separation from home and daily entry to the program are handled with sensitivity and respect. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-B. Children's separation from home and daily entry to the program are handled with sensitivity and respect. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-B. Children's comparison from home and daily entry to the program are handled with sensitivity and respect. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children.
Teacher Sensitivity Awareness • Anticipates problems and plans appropriately • Notices lack of understanding and/or difficulties Responsiveness • Acknowledges emotions • Provides comfort and assistance • Provides individualized support	 <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors).

Classroom Assessment Scoring System	Preschool Program Quality Assessment
Teacher Sensitivity (cont.) Addresses problems Helps in an effective and timely manner Helps resolve problems	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-M. Adults involve children in resolving conflicts. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-L. Children have opportunities to solve problems with materials and do things for themselves. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-L. Children the comportunities to solve problems with materials and do things for themselves.
 Student comfort Seeks support and guidance Freely participates Takes risks 	III. Adult-Child Interaction III-C. Adults create a warm and caring atmosphere for children.
 Regard for Student Perspectives Flexibility and student focus Shows flexibility Incorporates students' ideas Follows students' lead 	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-G. The program has a time each day for small-group activities that reflect and extend children's interests and development. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-H. The program has time each day for large-group activities that reflect and extend children's interests and development. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-H. The program has time each day for large-group activities that reflect and extend children's interests and development. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-I. During transition times, children have reasonable choices about activities and timing as they move from one activity to the next. <i>IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment</i> IV-D. Staff record and discuss anecdotal notes as the basis for planning for individual children.
 Support for autonomy and leadership Allows choice Allows students to lead lessons Gives students responsibility 	<i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-E. The program has time each day (e.g., work time, choice time, center time, free play) during which children initiate activities and carry out their intentions.

Regard for Student Perspectives (cont.)	 II. Daily Routine II-H. The program has time each day for large-group activities that reflect and extend children's interests and development. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). III. Adult-Child Interaction III. Adult-Child Interaction III. Adults provide opportunities for children to explore and use materials at their own
Student expressionEncourages student talkElicits ideas and/or perspectives	 developmental level and pace. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to
	support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors).
Restriction of movementAllows movementIs not rigid	 II. Daily Routine II-E. The program has time each day (e.g., work time, choice time, center time, free play) during which children initiate activities and carry out their intentions. II. Daily Routine II-G. The program has a time each day for small-group activities that reflect and extend children's interests and development. II. Daily Routine II-H. The program has time each day for large-group activities that reflect and extend children's interests and development.

Classroom Organization	
Behavior Management Clear behavior expectations • Clear expectations • Consistency • Clarity of rules	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-K. Adults encourage children to interact with and turn to one another for assistance throughout the day. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-L. Children have opportunities to solve problems with materials and do things for themselves. III. Adult-Child Interaction III. Adult-Child Interaction III-L. Children have opportunities to solve problems with materials and do things for themselves. III. Adult-Child Interaction III. Adult-Child Interaction III-M. Adults involve children in resolving conflicts.

Behavior Management (cont.)	<i>I. Learning Environment</i> I-C. The location of the interest areas is
Proactive	carefully planned to provide for adequate space
Anticipates problem behavior or	in each area, easy access between areas, and
	compatible activities in adjacent areas.
escalation	I. Learning Environment
Low reactivity	I-E. Classroom areas and materials are
Monitors	systematically arranged, labeled, and accessible to children.
	<i>I. Learning Environment</i>
	I-G. Materials are plentiful.
	<i>II. Daily Routine</i>
	II-A. Adults establish a consistent daily routine.
	Children are aware of the routine.
	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's
	play. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i>
	III-M. Adults involve children in resolving
	conflicts.
	IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment
	IV-B. Staff use a team teaching model and
	share responsibilities for planning and
	implementing program activities.
Redirection of misbehavior	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-C. Adults create a warm and caring
Effective reduction of misbehavior	atmosphere for children.
Attention to the positive	III. Adult-Child Interaction
Uses subtle cues to redirect	III-G. Adults encourage children's learning
	initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors).
Efficient redirection	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-J. Adults acknowledge individual children's
	accomplishments.
	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-M. Adults involve children in resolving
	conflicts.
Student behavior	II. Daily Routine
	II-C. An appropriate amount of time is allotted
Frequent compliance	for each part of the daily routine.
Little aggression and defiance	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-C. Adults create a warm and caring
	atmosphere for children. III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-K. Adults encourage children to interact with
	and turn to one another for assistance
	throughout the day.
	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-M. Adults involve children in resolving
	conflicts.

Productivity	
 Maximizing learning time Provision of activities Choice when finished Few disruptions Effective completion of managerial tasks Pacing 	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-C. An appropriate amount of time is allotted for each part of the daily routine. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-I. During transition times, children have reasonable choices about activities and timing as they move from one activity to the next. <i>IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment</i> IV-B. Staff use a team teaching model and share responsibilities for planning and implementing program activities.
 Routines Students know what to do Clear instructions Little wandering 	 Learning Environment I-C. The location of the interest areas is carefully planned to provide for adequate space in each area, easy access between areas, and compatible activities in adjacent areas. Learning Environment I-D. An outdoor play area (at or near the program site) has adequate space, equipment, and materials to support various types of play. Learning Environment I-E. Classroom areas and materials are systematically arranged, labeled, and accessible to children. Daily Routine II-A. Adults establish a consistent daily routine. Children are aware of the routine. Daily Routine II-B. The parts of the daily routine include time for children to do the following: to plan; to carry out their plans; to recall and discuss their activities; to engage in small-group activities; to engage in large-group activities; to have snacks or meals; to clean up; to transition to other activities; to play outside; and to nap or rest (if applicable — i.e., full-day programs). Adult-Child Interaction III-A. Adults provide opportunities for children to explore and use materials at their own developmental level and pace.
 Transitions Brief Explicit follow-through Learning opportunities within 	<i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-I. During transition times, children have reasonable choices about activities and timing as they move from one activity to the next.

PreparationMaterials ready and accessibleKnows lessons	 I. Learning Environment I-E. Classroom areas and materials are systematically arranged, labeled, and accessible to children. IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment IV-A. Staff use a comprehensive and documented curriculum model or educational approach to guide teaching practices. IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment IV-B. Staff use a team teaching model and share responsibilities for planning and implementing program activities.
 Teacher involvement Effective questioning Expanding children's involvement Variety of modalities and materials Range of auditory, visual, and movement opportunities 	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's play. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). III. Adult-Child Interaction III-A. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-J. Adults acknowledge individual children's accomplishments. I. Learning Environment I-F. Classroom materials are varied, manipulative, open-ended, and authentic and appeal to multiple senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste). II. Daily Routine II-B. The parts of the daily routine include time for children to do the following: to plan; to carry out their plans; to recall and discuss their activities; to engage in small-group activities; to engage in large-group activities; to have snacks or meals; to clean up; to transition to other activities; to play outside; and to nap or rest (if applicable — i.e., full-day programs).

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Instructional Learning Formats (cont.)	 II. Daily Routine II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults. II. Daily Routine II-E. The program has time each day (e.g., work time, choice time, center time, free play) during which children initiate activities and carry out their intentions. II. Daily Routine II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-I. Adults provide opportunities for children to explore and use materials at their own developmental level and pace.
Student interest	II. Daily Routine
Active participation	II-C. An appropriate amount of time is allotted
Listening	for each part of the daily routine. III. Adult-Child Interaction
Focused attention	III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's
• Focused alternion	 play. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-I. Adults provide opportunities for children to explore and use materials at their own developmental level and pace. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-K. Adults encourage children to interact with and turn to one another for assistance throughout the day.
Clarity of learning objectives	II. Daily Routine
Advanced organizers	II-G. The program has a time each day for small-group activities that reflect and extend
Summaries	children's interests and development.
Reorientation statements	 II. Daily Routine II-H. The program has time each day for large- group activities that reflect and extend children's interests and development. III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III. Adult-Child Interaction III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's
	play.

Instructional Learning Formats (cont.)	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and
	outdoors). III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.
	III. Adult-Child Interaction III-I. Adults provide opportunities for children to
	explore and use materials at their own developmental level and pace.

Instructional Support	
Concept Development	
Analysis and reasoning	III. Adult-Child Interaction
Why and/or how questions	III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and
Problem solving	communication.
Prediction/experimentation	III. Adult-Child Interaction III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to
Classification/comparison	support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English.
Evaluation	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's play.
	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors).
	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.
	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-I. Adults provide opportunities for children to
	explore and use materials at their own developmental level and pace.
Creating	II. Daily Routine
Brainstorming	II-D. The program has time each day during
Planning	which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults.
	II. Daily Routine
Producing	II-G. The program has a time each day for
	small-group activities that reflect and extend
	children's interests and development. <i>II. Daily Routine</i>
	II-H. The program has time each day for large-
	group activities that reflect and extend children's
	interests and development.
	III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's play.
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Classroom Assessment Scoring System	Preschool Program Quality Assessment
Concept Development (cont.) Integration • Connects concepts • Integrates with previous knowledge	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-L. Children have opportunities to solve problems with materials and do things for themselves. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-M. Adults involve children in resolving conflicts. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). III. Adult-Child Interaction III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times. IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment IV-D. Staff record and discuss anecdotal notes as the basis for planning for individual children.
Connections to the real world	III. Adult-Child Interaction
Real-world applications	III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and
Related to students' lives	outdoors). III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.
	IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment IV-D. Staff record and discuss anecdotal notes
	as the basis for planning for individual children.
Quality of Feedback	
Scaffolding	III. Adult-Child Interaction III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's
HintsAssistance	play.
	III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors).
	III. Adult-Child Interaction III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas
	and learning during group times. III. Adult-Child Interaction
	III-L. Children have opportunities to solve problems with materials and do things for themselves.
Feedback loops	II. Daily Routine
Back-and-forth exchanges	II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their
Persistence by teacher	plans to adults.
Follow-up questions	

Quality of Feedback (cont.)	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-K. The program has a time each day for snacks or meals that encourage social interaction. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.
Prompting thought processes	II. Daily Routine
 Prompting thought processes Asks students to explain thinking Queries responses and actions 	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.

Quality of Feedback (cont.) Providing information • Expansion • Clarification • Specific feedback	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. III. Adult-Child Interaction
	 III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's play. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). III. Adult-Child Interaction III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.
Encouragement and affirmationRecognitionReinforcementStudent persistence	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. III. Adult-Child Interaction
Language Modeling	III-J. Adults acknowledge individual children's accomplishments.
 Frequent conversation Back-and-forth exchanges Contingent responding Peer conversations 	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-K. The program has a time each day for snacks or meals that encourage social interaction. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English.

Language Modeling (cont.)	<i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-K. Adults encourage children to interact with and turn to one another for assistance throughout the day.
 Open-ended questions Questions require more than a one-word response Students respond 	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English.
RepeatsExtends/elaborates	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English.
 Self- and parallel talk Maps own actions with language Maps student action with language 	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-K. The program has a time each day for snacks or meals that encourage social interaction.

Language Modeling (cont.)	 III. Adult-Child Interaction III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-E. Adults use a variety of strategies to support classroom communication with children whose primary language is not English. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-F. Adults participate as partners in children's play. III. Adult-Child Interaction III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.
 Advanced language Variety of words Connected to familiar words and/or ideas 	 <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-D. The program has time each day during which children make plans and indicate their plans to adults. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-F. The program has time each day during which children remember and review their activities and share with adults and peers what they have done. <i>II. Daily Routine</i> II-K. The program has a time each day for snacks or meals that encourage social interaction. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-D. Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication. <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-G. Adults encourage children's learning initiatives throughout the day (both indoors and outdoors). <i>III. Adult-Child Interaction</i> III-H. Adults support and extend children's ideas and learning during group times.