

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF CLASS® IN HEAD START PROGRAMS

The following key lessons provide insights into building a culture centered on quality interactions and how you can use CLASS® to support educators and children in your program.



6 Lessons From Head Start Leaders

1

Power of Interactions Over CLASS® Scores

Focus on the transformative power of interactions, not just raising CLASS® scores. Align your team around the idea that all children deserve life-changing interactions.

2

Leaders as Interaction Models

Leaders must model effective interactions to foster positive relationships and continuous learning. Think about the “how” of your interactions and inspire your team by how you model CLASS® in your daily work, as well as through our Teaching with CLASS® podcast episodes.

3

Foundational Knowledge for All Educators

Ensure every educator has foundational knowledge about CLASS® and its integration into daily work. Utilize resources like CLASS® Primer for Teachers and CLASS® Interactions Dimension Guides. Offer bite-sized professional development sessions like “Getting Started with CLASS®.”

4

Alignment of CLASS® with Other Program Elements

Showcase how CLASS® aligns with and supports other program elements. Explore crosswalks highlighting the alignment with the Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework and popular curricula.

5

Frequent and Supportive Feedback

Provide regular, meaningful feedback on CLASS® to make it an integral part of Continuous Quality Improvement. Leverage the myTeachstone platform for CLASS® observations and actionable reports as well as training opportunities for new staff in CLASS® observations.

6

Integration of CLASS® into Practice-Based Coaching

Embed CLASS® systematically into Practice-Based Coaching for more effective interactions. Explore evidence-based practice-based coaching models for CLASS® support. Consider new tools like the CLASS® Environment™ tool or programs like CDA with CLASS® for career advancement.

A single interaction can change a child's day, but continuous support with meaningful interactions can change a child's life. Explore the resources on our Head Start page for more information and guidance on fostering a culture of CLASS® within your program. Let us assist you in this important journey!