



Houston Achievement Place--Project CLASS

www.projectclass.org

Project CLASS (Children Learning Appropriate Social Skills) is a school-based social and relationship skills program that:

- Equips children 3-12 years old with core-foundation social skills.
- Trains teachers on how to effectively teach social skills to children 3-12 years old
- Incorporates invaluable teaching & learning tools including posters, music, songs & movements that are fun and engaging
- Provides In-School follow-up services to strengthen implementation & effectiveness
- Involves working directly with children who have the most behavior problems
- Has an extensive history of demonstrated and documented effectiveness & positive outcomes
- Is Extraordinary Training & Hands-On In-School services focused on learning readiness and improved student behavior
- Is **Simple, Powerful, Effective**

Benefits to Children, Teachers, Schools and the Community

Whether at home, school, work or in the community, healthy relationships and relationship skills significantly determine success or failure. Relationship success begins with social skills. All children must learn and develop core-foundation building block social, relationship and emotional skills to get along with others and succeed in life. How these skills are taught makes a world of difference. Training, support and tools to assist children in learning these skills are critically important.

Program Focus on Children 3-12 Years Old

Research indicates that amplified learning is possible during a child's early and formative years. By focusing on children 3-12 years old in the school setting, Project CLASS merges the learning potential of young children, the accessibility of adults who care for and teach these children, and the power of consistent, skill-based training to impact behavior.

Core-Foundation Social and Relationship Skills

Social skills are the skills necessary to get along with others and form constructive relationships. These skills are the starting point for positive relationship development. These skills are also the elemental foundation for more complex skills in the future. These skills include: **Looking at the Person Talking, Paying Attention, Following Instructions, Accepting Feedback, Accepting No, Calming Down When Angry, and Making Good Choices.** These and other Project CLASS skills underpin the development of values and character.

Project CLASS Works!

The formula for why Project CLASS works is: **CONTENT + IMPACT = LEARNING.** Project CLASS incorporates Skills Content that is clear, simple, focused, consistent and immediately beneficial. Project CLASS integrates a FUN and Engaging Approach that includes songs, music, movements, stories, role-plays and theatrical activities for Impact. Learning is optimized by working in conjunction with child developmental realities, brain functioning, effective modes of learning and attention span parameters. Consistent social skills language and consistent social skills teaching methodology are hallmarks of Project CLASS and contribute to its effectiveness.

Project CLASS Schools

Project CLASS is currently serving over 32,000 children, 4,000 teachers, and 2,000 parents in 60+ early childhood centers and elementary schools. Schools served are Houston ISD, Spring Branch ISD, Fort Bend ISD, KIPP charter schools, and other districts, charters and private schools.

Project CLASS is Research Based

Project CLASS teaching methodology.

Project CLASS is built on an extensive foundation of research studies conducted through the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas) and the Achievement Place Research Project.

Importance of social skills development.

Durlak and Weissberg (2005) did a quantitative analysis of 300 research studies demonstrating the beneficial impact of social and emotional development programs on academic performance, on-task behavior and constructive relationships.

Effectiveness of Project CLASS in developing social skills in children and in strengthening social skills teaching abilities of teachers.

Mena (Datatude 2001; Datatude 2005) demonstrated the effectiveness of Project CLASS in decreasing inappropriate student behavior and increasing appropriate behavior; demonstrated increased usage of effective social skills teaching skill sets by teachers and decreased usage of ineffective social skills teaching skill sets.

Project CLASS Results and Demonstrated Outcomes

- ↑ Increased social skills usage by children
(Follow Instructions, Pay Attention, Ask Permission, Accept No, etc.)
- ↑ Increased social skills teaching abilities by teachers
(Use of Social Skills language, Praise & Positive Attention, Reminders, etc.)
- ↑ Increased appropriate behavior by children
- ↑ Increased positive teacher-student interactions in the classroom (30%-50%)

- ↓ Decreased inappropriate behavior by children
- ↓ Decreased disciplinary referrals for children by teachers (20%-80%)
- ↓ Decreased negative teacher-student interactions in the classroom (30%-50%)

- +Positive Assessments by 80%-96% of teachers and principals across the dimensions of
Project CLASS Usefulness; Helpfulness; Development of Valuable Skills; Positive Impact on
School Climate; Improved Student Behavior; Increased Academic Teaching Time; Decreased
Disciplinary Time; Increased On-Task Behavior; Improved Academic Performance

Project CLASS is Different from Other Social Skills Programs

Most social skills programs are comprised of a “kit” and little or nothing else.

Project CLASS combines workshop training with on-going in-school support staff to help teachers and students develop skills and skill sets. Without integrative in-school training experiences, kits are largely ineffective, sounding better in promotional information than where the action really is, in the classrooms and lives of the children.

Contact Information

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