

Houston Achievement Place
Project CLASS
HAP Progress Report 2023

This Year's 2023 Overview & Highlights

- **Website Redesign & Upgrades**
- **On-Demand Trainings Development**
- **Training Sessions & Resources Translated into Spanish**
- **Middle School Resources & Core-Skills Workshop Training**
- **Institutional Partnerships Outreach Initiatives**

BACKGROUND

The HAP motto is the HAP commitment: ***Kids Come First!***

Founded in 1974, HAP helps children by providing two sets of program services: ***Project CLASS for Schools*** and ***Project CLASS for Community***. Our primary mission is serving children who are disadvantaged, underserved and from low-income families. Our complementary mission is serving ALL children and ALL adults for achievement and success at home, in school and in the community.

Project CLASS (Children Learning Appropriate Social Skills) improves children's behavior and learning readiness. These days, too many children have behavior problems in school, at home and in life. Too many children are not able to Engage Eye Contact, Pay Attention, Follow Instructions, Accept No, Calm Down when Angry, and Make Good Choices. Too many children are not able to Learn, Get Along with Others and Succeed. Project CLASS significantly improves children's behavior for school, home and life success.

Project CLASS teaches core-foundation social and learning readiness skills to children 3-5 and 6-15 years old. Core-foundation skills are the ABC basic underpinning skills critical for: Positive Behavior; Learning; Focus of Attention; Academic Achievement; Family Relationships; Getting Along with Others; Combating Bullying & Hate; Mental & Behavioral Health; Success not Failure.

PROJECT CLASS FOR SCHOOLS

Project CLASS for Schools currently benefits 32,000 children, 4,000 teachers and 2,000 parents annually in 60+ elementary schools and early childhood centers. School partners include Houston ISD, Katy ISD, Cy-Fair ISD, Pasadena ISD, KIPP Charter, Catholic and Faith-based schools. Music, songs and movements accelerate skills development and retention, contributing to proven benefits and impact.

PROJECT CLASS FOR COMMUNITY

Project CLASS for Community is an exciting and creative set of complementary services. With the goal of helping tens of thousands, potentially hundreds of thousands more children, parents, teachers, grandparents, foster parents, youth ministers, daycare & after-school staff, HAP has developed the rarest of rarities: a way to serve an astonishing number of children and adults that is remarkably cost effective and economically viable.

Project CLASS for Community umbrellas our newest offering- ***Children's Books Animated Films Social Skills Initiative***. This Initiative involves an integrated series of Children's Books, Animated Films, Comprehensive Parent & Educator Guides, Songs, Song Animations, Demonstration Videos, Training Sessions (In-Person, Virtual Live, Virtual On-Demand), Help-Line Services, and Community Outreach & Partnerships.

The Books, Animated Films, Guides, Songs, Animated Songs, and Demo Videos are all free internet giveaways available to all with instant access. This newest offering is ideally suited for teachers, families, day-care, churches, and community-engaged organizations. HAP is committed to addressing significant community needs in affordable ways that make a positive difference in the lives of many children and adults.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Project CLASS Website Development & Upgrades

Houston Achievement Place is committed to achieving three main goals and has prioritized the Project CLASS website, www.projectclass.org as an important vehicle for impact. The three main goals are to:

- Improve Children's behavior and Focus of Attention;
- Equip Children with core-foundation social and learning readiness skills;
- Strengthen the capabilities of teachers, parents, other caring adults to teach core skills to children.

The www.projectclass.org website has been fully redesigned and continues to be upgraded to function as a Training and Resource Center for skills development impacting both children and their adult care providers.

The redesigned website organizes and integrates a sizable and growing library of tools, resources, teaching-learning activities, training experiences and support intended to assist and benefit individual, classroom, school, family, and organizational users. One of the major design accomplishments is the linkage of each core-foundation social skill with the content and experiential offerings that lead to skills development.

On-Demand Workshop Training Experiences Additional Developments

One of our current, on-going, and highest priority initiatives is to create, make available and evaluate On-Demand Skills-Building Training Experiences for both Children and their Adult Care-Providers (teachers, parents, grandparents, foster parents, day-care workers, youth ministers). Once developed and implemented, these training experiences are available for free on our www.projectclass.org website. The challenge is to provide fun, engaging, relationship enhancing experiences that develop core-foundation social and learning readiness skills for children 3-15 years old. Our songs and song animations are integral components of these On-Demand offerings.

Because we integrate core-foundation skills with an arts approach for impact, we are able to overcome a number of the obstacles that are inherent with Virtual Training offerings. For Virtual Trainings to be effective, they must be riveting and engaging, otherwise the Virtual medium fails to capture viewer attention for more than a few seconds. Clearly, the Virtual Training medium has pluses and minuses. The pluses include 24-7 access and logistical ease without travel time. The minuses include a medium that far too often is boring and unable to sustain attention, especially when there are innumerable captivating alternatives.

With these realities in mind, we use professional actors (adults and kids) who are superstars with the virtual medium, and incorporate large teleprompters so the Actors and Actresses can be subject matter experts. In addition, we integrate songs, animations, role-plays, humor and

activities we have developed with a proven track record for compelling, engaging and skills building capabilities.

Contributed funds pay for: Video Film Shoots (Originator Studios); Actors and Actors (Pastorini-Bosby Talent Agency); Animations (Paper Brain Productions); Songs (Gregory Pepper Musical Artist); Social Media Services (Marketing 360); Website services (Tribe Design); and more.

Training Sessions and Resources Translated into Spanish

Due to significantly expanded demand for Project CLASS Training Workshops and Resources being provided in Spanish, these areas received, and are currently receiving, priority attention. Spanish translations are well underway for On-Demand Trainings for Anger & Calming Down, Eye Contact & Paying Attention, and Core-Skills On-Demand Overview-Refresher.

In addition, a number of our Project CLASS Resources are being translated into Spanish. These translations include: ***Look Book***, ***Look Book Parent & Educator Guide***, ***Blasto Crashes the Art Car Parade Book***, ***Blasto Crashes the Art Care Parade Parent & Educator Guide***, ***Michael Gets Mad Book***, ***Michael Gets Mad Parent & Educator Guide***.

Also, the Project CLASS Parent Training Workshop is being translated into Spanish.

Middle School Resources & Core-Skills Workshop Training

Based on our Project CLASS collaborations with several middle schools in Katy ISD and in Catholic schools, additional resources are being focused on strengthening our approach, language and visual resources for middle school children and their teachers. Adaptations are being made to our Core-Skills Training Workshop, Refresher Training for middle school teachers, and adding fuller access to our middle school Project CLASS posters on our website.

Institutional Partnerships Outreach Initiatives

HAP and Project CLASS have prioritized exploring institutional long-term partnerships with Katy ISD, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, and YES Prep Charter Schools. These dialogues have just begun with the goal of integrating Project CLASS services into their core structural offerings with institutional support and commitment.

Other Community Outreach & Partnerships

On the especially resourceful front, we continued our partnership with the Houston Food Bank involving our donation of Project CLASS Children's Social Skills Books in tandem with food donations through the Backpack Buddy program. During the school year, in conjunction with participating schools, school district delivery sites and community partners, the Backpack Buddy program ensures that food sacks are distributed to children and families on a weekly basis. For hundreds of children and families, these food sacks are enthusiastically augmented by Project CLASS Books and Resources facilitating fun and engaging activities for enhanced focus of attention, learning readiness and relationships.

SUMMARY

To sum up the year, there is a tremendous need for Project CLASS services to improve children's behavior, focus of attention and learning readiness. It is a blessing to be able to help more children and their parents, teachers, grandparents, foster parents, and other caring adults have more meaningful and productive lives.

LINKS for ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Impact, Results & Outcomes

<https://projectclass.org/project-class/impact-results-outcomes/>

Project CLASS Overview Video- 7 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0edCQGjx8Q&t=1s>

Social Skills Will Rock You (Pine Shadows Elementary School)- 30 seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYxxa4vXZjo&t=1>

Eye Contact Animated Song- 1 minute

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv5o5h_Yqfg&t=33s

Everybody Gets Mad Animated Song- 1 minute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQsj6vYobs4&t=1s>

www.projectclass.org/trending/