

## Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) Overview

This document provides a brief overview of the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) that preschool programs will be using to assess implementation of Pyramid Model practices.

### Introduction

The TPOT is an assessment that will be used in each classroom implementing Pyramid Model practices. It is designed to be an objective measure of fidelity of implementation. The TPOT will be administered by the Preschool Classroom Coach as a baseline assessment after Pyramid Practices training, then again approximately 6 months later. After the first year, it will be administered annually in the spring. Results from the assessment will be used to support goal setting and action planning for coaching for individual classrooms.

The TPOT is administered through a classroom observation (2 hours) and a brief teacher interview (15-20 minutes).

### Practices Being Measured

There are a number of key Pyramid Model practices that will be measured using the TPOT:

- Schedules, routines, and activities
- Transitions
- Supportive conversations
- Engagement
- Providing directions
- Collaborative teaming
- Teaching behavior expectations
- Teaching social skills and emotional competencies
- Teaching friendship skills
- Teaching emotional literacy
- Teaching problem solving
- Interventions for children with persistent challenging behavior
- Connecting with families
- Supporting family use of Pyramid Model practices

The TPOT also includes a subscale that measures Red Flag Indicators, which are items that may indicate structural issues or negative climate in the classroom. These indicators are incompatible with the Pyramid Model, and if present in the classroom, can be the initial target for coaching.

The final subscale includes what effective strategies are observed when responding to challenging behavior in the classroom.

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