



## **Using the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT)**

The TPOT provides a formal measure to determine a teacher's implementation of the Pyramid Model within classrooms for children ages 2-5 years. Coaches are asked to use the measure to determine the teacher's present level of implementation and to provide teachers with feedback on current strengths and needs. Coaches provide teachers with data from the TPOT to set goals and action plans for implementation and professional development.

*Before a TPOT observation session, please do the following:*

1. Thoroughly study the TPOT manual so that you are familiar with each item's operational definition.
2. Practice the TPOT with a partner by looking at a video tape of a classroom or watching a classroom. Check your reliability. Resolve questions about how to score items or interpret your observations

*Conducting the TPOT*

1. Schedule your observation with the teacher in advance
2. Make sure you can observe circle time or another structured large group activity and centers (i.e., unstructured, child choice) during your observation
3. Schedule at least 2 hours for the observation; Also make sure there will be 10 minutes to interview the teacher during a time when he/she is not distracted by child supervision responsibilities
4. When scheduling, determine when you will return to discuss the observation with the teacher
5. When leaving after an observation, leave a note or treat and provide a nugget of positive, descriptive feedback (e.g., "I loved the story you shared today, the children were so engaged")