

# The CLASS: Building Support for Higher Order Thinking

February 1-3, 2012  
Hilton DeSoto  
Savannah, Georgia

Although critical thinking and language development are key to school success, the unfortunate truth is that in Head Start we have many, many classroom teachers who are not themselves very strong language modelers and who do not typically engage in critical thinking during everyday classroom interactions.

In fact, now that the CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) has been used to assess Head Start classrooms all over the country, we have discovered that in the area of Instructional Support (the domain that measures support for language development and higher order thinking), the percentage of Head Start classrooms scoring in the high range was zero. That's right... Zero. And, on a scale of 1-7, 40% of our classrooms scored lower than a three.

This should be most troubling to us, with reauthorization just around the corner, particularly at a time when Head Start has been battered by critics in the mainstream media, and when our own impact study cannot even provide evidence of academic gains beyond kindergarten.

The CLASS should be a ray of hope in an otherwise bleak picture. It was incorporated into the Head Start Act because, unlike any other rating scale or assessment system, the CLASS provides evidence that high quality classrooms lead to long term academic gains. However, simply knowing that high quality interactions can impact school success is not much help if we are not able to deliver these interactions at the classroom level.

This training will provide specific strategies for managers and supervisors to measurably increase the level of discourse in our classrooms. It will identify systemic barriers that make it difficult for teachers to engage in language modeling or to provide children with high quality feedback. It will help us support teachers in asking better questions, providing more thoughtful responses, and using more complex vocabulary.

And, the next time our classrooms are assessed, we just might see the kind of scores that predict academic success for our children.

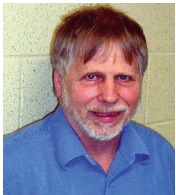
The Standard Registration Fee is \$395 per person. Members of **T/TAS@Your Service** may qualify for the Subscriber Rate of \$375 per person. (Some restrictions may apply based on the level of your subscription; please visit [www.ttas.org/ays.html](http://www.ttas.org/ays.html) for information on how to become a subscriber.) For details on registering, including information on earning 1.425 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for this event, please see page 3.



## Learning Outcomes

- ★ Participants will reflect upon the “disconnect” between typical classroom practices and basic child development... not to mention brain research.
- ★ Participants will consider the obstacles and opportunities that present themselves when classroom staff do not typically provide language modeling and who themselves do not engage in higher order thinking.
- ★ Participants will rethink agency policies for assessment, planning and individualization in order to maximize opportunities for language modeling and higher order thinking.
- ★ Participants will synthesize information and develop specific agency plans for improving language modeling and higher order thinking.

## Your Presenter



**Michael Gramling**, Human Development Specialist and lifelong social justice advocate, found his professional home in 1979 when he discovered Head Start and embraced its values and its goals - particularly those of enhancing the dignity of

families living in poverty and of supporting parents as the primary educator of their children. The body of work he has produced since then reflects his values, his academic training (M.A. in Human Development, Pacific Oaks College) and his real life experiences as a Head Start parent, teacher, and manager. Michael is the primary author of the national 2003 Head Start Family Literacy Project training, as well as the T/TAS publications, Positive Approaches to Supervision, and Positive Guidance: Making A Place for Everyone. Most recently, he was a contributing author to the 2006 Zero to Three publication, Learning to Read the World.

*(T/TAS reserves the right to substitute presenters.)*

## Hotel Accommodations

The Hilton DeSoto is located at 15 East Liberty Street in Savannah, Georgia. Hotel accommodations are available at the special conference rate of \$95 per night for single or double occupancy (plus applicable taxes). To qualify for the special conference rate, please state that you will be attending the Head Start CLASS Training. Please make your hotel reservations no later than January 6, 2012 by calling 1-877-280-0751 or you may go through the hotel's website at [www.desotohilton.com](http://www.desotohilton.com) and use booking code **WKU**.

The Head Start CLASS Training room block will be held until the stated deadline or until the block is full, whichever comes first. Please note that room blocks often fill very quickly. Reservations made after the stated deadline will only be accepted by the hotel on a space and prevailing rate available basis. Please consult the hotel for information on their specific cancellation policies, to learn about additional charges that may apply to hotel guests (i.e., parking fees, local phone charges, internet access fees, etc.), and to learn about available amenities, such as room service, in-house dining, and area attractions.

The Hilton Savannah DeSoto hotel is situated in the heart of Savannah's historic, dining, shopping, and theatre districts, and just a short stroll from bustling River Street, the City Market, and Forsyth Park. Surrounded by Savannah's beautiful landscaped public squares, magnificent restored southern homes of the Colonial and Victorian eras, and historic landmarks, the Hilton DeSoto is just 20 minutes from Savannah International Airport. The hotel is within walking distance to wonderful dining opportunities at the area's many restaurants and pubs, including Paula Deen's famous Lady and Sons Restaurant.



## Tentative Agenda

February 1, 2012

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 – Noon Child Development Language Modeling
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
- 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Assessment and Individualization: Who Is This Child?

February 2, 2012

- 8:30 – 12 Noon Identifying Opportunities (and missed ones) for Language Modeling and Higher Order Thinking in Routine Interactions
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
- 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Supporting Teachers Who Are Not Themselves Language Models and Who Do Not Engage in Higher Order Thinking

February 3, 2012

- 8:30 – 12 Noon Re-inventing Agency Policies and Practices to Support Language Modeling and Higher Order Thinking

# Registering for T/TAS Events

It is easy to register for events sponsored by T/TAS. There are three methods for registering:

- ★ **To Register On-Line:** To register for any T/TAS event, visit our web site at [www.ttas.org/calendar.html](http://www.ttas.org/calendar.html), locate the event you wish to register for, and then click on the Register button.
- ★ **To Register By Mail:** Complete and return the attached Registration Form with check, money order, or Purchase Order (made out to T/TAS), or with Credit Card info (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) to: **T/TAS, 1906 College Heights Boulevard, #11031, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1031.**
- ★ **To Register By Fax:** Complete and fax the attached Registration Form with Purchase Order or Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) information to our office at 270-745-3340 or 270-745-2142.

Registration forms will not be processed unless accompanied by payment, credit card info, or Purchase Order. Registrations will be accepted until events fill.

**Enrollment is Limited:** T/TAS cannot guarantee enrollment at events. In the event that available enrollment slots fill, you will have the option of being placed on a waiting list in case space reopens due to cancellations. **We recommend you do not make hotel or travel arrangements until you receive your registration confirmation.** T/TAS is not liable for any hotel or travel penalties or fees that may be incurred by participants or registrants.

**Confirmation of Registration:** Registrations can only be confirmed by e-mail. Please provide your e-mail address on the registration form if you wish to receive a confirmation. If you do not receive a confirmation within five days of registering for the event, please contact Mike Hartz at 800-882-7482.

**Cancellations/Substitutions Policy:** If you cancel your registration *in writing* 10 or more business days before the event, registration fees will be refunded, less a \$25 enrollment charge. No refunds will be made less than 10 business days prior to the event; however, you may designate a substitute to attend in your place. T/TAS reserves the right to cancel the event if enrollment criteria are not met or when conditions beyond our control prevail. In the event of cancellation, each registrant will be contacted. The liability of T/TAS is limited to the refund of registration fees only.

**Continuing Education Units (CEUs):** Western Kentucky University offers Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for participants successfully completing a T/TAS training seminar. To apply for CEUs, please complete the appropriate section of your registration form and include an additional fee of \$25 per person. Consult the event description to learn how many CEUs are offered for each event.

## T/TAS Also Brings the Training to You

Did you know that T/TAS is also a leading provider of **on-site** professional development opportunities? Our knowledgeable experts deliver the same high-quality training and materials in your local program setting, reaching all of your staff at a cost competitive with the cost of sending just a few to a conference or seminar. Most of the events on our training schedule can be adapted for presentation to your local program or to a cluster of programs in your geographic area. T/TAS also specializes in adapting our training style and content to meet the specific needs of your program, staff, and colleagues. To learn more, to discuss your local training needs, or to schedule training, call **800-882-7482**.





# Event Registration Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FIELDS AND PRINT NAME & POSITION of person attending exactly as it should appear on the name tag. Copy form as necessary for registering additional persons.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enrollment is Limited:** T/TAS cannot guarantee enrollment in any event. In the event that available enrollment slots fill, you will have the option of being placed on a waiting list in case space reopens due to cancellations. We recommend you do not make hotel or travel arrangements until you receive your registration confirmation. There will be no on-site registration.

EVENT	SELECT FEE(S)
<p><b>The CLASS: Building Support for Higher Order Thinking</b>            February 1-3, 2012            Hilton DeSoto            Savannah, Georgia</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard Registration: \$395</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>TTAS@Your Service</b> Subscribers: \$375*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check if requesting 1.425 CEUs (14 .25 contact hours) from Western Kentucky University and include an additional \$25 in payment.</p>

\* Subscribers, please include **T/TAS@Your Service** Enrollment No. \_\_\_\_\_. Some restrictions may apply; visit [www.ttas.org/ays.html](http://www.ttas.org/ays.html) for information on becoming a subscriber.

Room blocks often fill quickly; please make your hotel reservations by the date listed in the conference descriptions.

**CHECK METHOD OF PAYMENT** (Forms will not be processed unless accompanied by payment):

- Check payable to T/TAS.
- Purchase Order No. \_\_\_\_\_ payable to T/TAS.
- Credit Card (Mastercard, Visa, Discover only): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Visa Card Users, please include 3-digit CV number from back of card: \_ \_ \_*

**Return to:** T/TAS  
1906 College Heights Boulevard #11031  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1031  
Fax: 270-745-3340 or 270-745-2142  
Call 800-882-7482 for more information

**ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS:**  
Do you have any disability that requires special materials or services?  
Do you have a special dietary need?

Cancellations: To obtain a refund of registration fees (less \$25 enrollment charge), cancellations must be received **in writing** 10 working days prior to the start of the event.  
EIN61-1358086