



10/12/2026

Hot Springs Early Childhood Association

Presentation: Introduction to CLASS

Training Minutes

Nine participants representing three centers attended the meeting. Four board members were present: Melanie Jackson, Samantha Crow, Donny Caudill, and Shannon Jones.

Melanie Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed attendees. She introduced the representatives from Child Care Aware and announced that the next meeting would be held on November 9, 2026, at the same location. The training, titled "Move It," will focus on gross motor development and will be presented by Curricula Concepts. Melanie also provided a brief overview of Engage. Participants received handouts containing CLASS Observation Cycle Score Sheets for Infant/Toddler and Pre-K–3rd Grade.

Melanie Jackson and Samantha Crow jointly led the CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) training. The presenters explained that CLASS has been in use since 2008 and is a research-based observation tool replacing ITERS and ECERS. CLASS assesses classroom interactions and supports continuous professional learning and improvement.

The Pre-K CLASS tool organizes effective interactions into three domains: Emotional Support (Connect), Classroom Organization (Engage), and Instructional Support (Inspire Learning).

The Infant/Toddler portion of the training addressed two domains: Emotional and Behavioral Support and Engaged Support for Learning.

The presenters reviewed the CLASS score sheets, discussed the dimensions within each domain, and explained what observers look for during classroom observations. They also provided an overview of the CLASS scoring process.

Following the presentation, Melanie drew tickets for two door prizes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.