

Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT™)

What is the TPOT?

The TPOT is a program observation instrument that measures the implementation of teaching and behavior support practices associated with the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children. The TPOT subscales include:

- Key Practices
- Red Flags
- Using Effective Strategies to Respond to Challenging Behavior

Which program(s) could use the TPOT?

TPOT can be used to provide information to center-based early childhood programs that serve children from two to five years of age.

TPOT assessment process

External TPOT assessments are conducted by a reliable TPOT assessor from the Program Quality Assessment (PQA) team. The assessment includes a two-hour observation of child-initiated and teacher-directed activities and the transitions between activities followed by a 15–20-minute teacher interview.

Internal TPOT assessments are conducted by the program's internal assessment (IA) team. The program's IA team partners with the Quality Coach and TPOT Assessor when planning for and conducting internal assessments and when analyzing the information collected during the internal assessment process. Please see [How to Conduct an Internal Assessment Using the TPOT](#) for detailed information on using TPOT for internal assessment.

How does the TPOT support continuous quality improvement (CQI)?

The use of the TPOT provides teachers with strategies to manage challenging behavior and promote social-emotional competence in children. The TPOT helps to identify strengths and areas where teacher support or professional development may be needed.

Additional Information/Training

- [Brookes Publishing \(brookespublishing.com\)](https://brookespublishing.com)
Additional information including downloadable documents and resources.
- [Pyramid Model \(csefel.vanderbilt.edu\)](https://csefel.vanderbilt.edu)
- [How to Conduct an Internal Assessment Using TPOT \(pakeys.org/how-to-tpot\)](https://pakeys.org/how-to-tpot)
- [Facilitated Program Observation Instrument Orientation Request \(FPO\) \(pakeys.org\)](https://pakeys.org)
- [Program Quality Assessment Professional Development \(pakeys.org/pqa/professional-development\)](https://pakeys.org/pqa/professional-development)