

Background Information of the PKKTPAI Project

UNC Charlotte has been funded to train all of the school systems in North Carolina to use the Pre Kindergarten - Kindergarten Teacher Performance Appraisal Instrument (PKKTPAI). We developed the measure and it has now been adopted by the State Board of Education. We will conduct regional training conferences during the coming academic year (2007-2008) to disseminate training materials so that all school systems in the state can train their elementary principals to use the measure.

The North Carolina Teacher Performance Assessment Instrument (TPAI) was developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and originally implemented in 1985 to evaluate the performance of K-12 classroom teachers. Administered by school principals and other personnel who received training on how to use the instrument, the TPAI was revised in 2000 (TPAI-R). These revisions better reflect the current research and standards in teaching. However, many professionals in the field of early childhood education believe that the instrument does not reflect the standards appropriate for the Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms.

In order to address this problem, the PreK-K Teachers' Performance Appraisal Instrument (PKKTPAI) Project was initiated to develop and validate an instrument for evaluating early childhood teachers in the state of North Carolina. The project was funded by the NC Department of Public Instruction's Early Childhood Section and Exceptional Children's Preschool Program, as well as More at Four. The PKKTPAI and the TPAI-R evaluation processes are identical. The instruments used within the process have been revised to reflect more appropriate and accurate knowledge, skills, and dispositions of early childhood teachers.

Effective evaluation of teachers is vital to the assurance of quality instruction and an integral component in the process of improving teaching and learning. An effective evaluation program results when teachers are treated as professionals as well as when evaluators are successful in using evaluation to reinforce effective practices and to improve teaching.