



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wireless Generation and Children's Learning Institute  
Enhance mCLASS®:CIRCLE™ Assessment  
with New Research-Based, Age-Appropriate Math Measures**

**Teachers Gain Insight into Young Children's Nascent Math Skills**

Brooklyn, NY and Houston, TX (May 13, 2009) Wireless Generation, a provider of tools and services to help educators improve teaching and learning, and the Children's Learning Institute (CLI) at the University of Texas Health Science Center are adding research-based math measures and activities to the mCLASS®:CIRCLE™ assessment for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Research shows that young children have a grasp of math concepts and skills including counting, patterns, shapes, magnitude, and simple addition and subtraction. CLI developed and validated the brief measures, which reveal what young children can do and guide teachers to fun activities that informally cultivate math aptitude and enjoyment.

Wireless Generation and CLI have long collaborated to help early childhood educators understand and nurture the cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children. Since 2004, CLI's CIRCLE™ early literacy assessment has been available on Wireless Generation's award-winning mCLASS software platform, which enables teachers to evaluate letter-naming, vocabulary, and phonological awareness unobtrusively and easily with a handheld device. While children interact with print materials and verbally answer questions, teachers record children's responses on the handheld, then receive immediate feedback and suggested activities for fostering development based on the needs of the whole class, groups of children, and individual children. Teachers can also create evolving portfolios that include anecdotal notes and observations of socio-emotional development, book and print awareness, and early writing skills. With the push of one button to "sync" the handheld to a computer, information on each child is uploaded to a secure Web site, where teachers can view reports that assist in classroom planning; inform conversations with colleagues and administrators; and promote communication with parents or guardians about their child.

Engaging children with math early can help to prevent later academic struggles. Research shows that quality early math education promotes later success in elementary school (Kilpatrick, J., Swafford, J., & Findell, B. (Eds.), 2001). Recent studies also identify early math skills, followed by reading, to be most strongly linked to future academic achievement (Duncan, G.J. Dowsett, C.J. Claessens, A. Magnuson, K. Huston, A.C. Klebanov, P. Pagani, L.S. Feinstein, L. Engel, M. Brooks-Gunn, J., 2007).

"Dr. Landry and the team at Children's Learning Institute have always conceived of CIRCLE as a portfolio of different tools for understanding and cultivating the development of the whole child," said Wireless Generation CEO and Co-Founder Larry Berger. "The addition of these math measures rounds out that picture for educators."

"The addition of the math measures to the mCLASS:CIRCLE assessment is exciting because early childhood educators have a great opportunity to cultivate children's emerging skills and interest in both

reading and math,” said Susan Landry, Ph.D., Director and Founder of the Children’s Learning Institute. “The math measures give teachers valuable insight into the development of these critically important early skills and support them in classroom activities.”

The mCLASS:CIRCLE math assessment is available for back-to-school 2009 in both English and Spanish. For more information, please visit [www.WirelessGeneration.com](http://www.WirelessGeneration.com).

### **About Wireless Generation**

Wireless Generation supports PreK-12 educators in improving teaching and learning. The company invented mCLASS® software, enabling teachers to use handheld devices for giving formative assessments in the elementary grades. By using handhelds instead of paper, teachers save significant time and receive assessment results immediately. Additional Web-based reporting, analysis, and instructional planning tools, as well as professional development, help educators to act on students’ data. Wireless Generation’s Burst™:Reading is a K-3 reading intervention that uses sophisticated technology to analyze assessment data and produce sequences of lessons for each student, helping teachers to match their instruction to varied learning needs. In addition, the company provides consulting, design, and development services for state and district systems that centralize student data and integrate social networking tools to help educators share solutions to specific problems in their classrooms. A partner to thousands of school systems, Wireless Generation is widely regarded as a leader in how technology can help address the challenges of education and reform.

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