



Incredible Years Evaluation Guide

2009 - 2010

Teacher/Para Professional



Dear Incredible Years Dinosaur School Teachers and Paraprofessionals,

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to join you this year in understanding how The Incredible Years Dinosaur School Program makes a difference in the lives of young children. We want to thank you for being involved in The Incredible Years program and evaluation. We know that for The Incredible Years program to continue to improve, program evaluation is essential.

In order to help you through the process, we have created this Evaluation Guide which contains all of the necessary information you will need throughout the year. You will find helpful materials such as a timeline, sample copies of the pre and post measures, and a description of our approach to evaluation.

We have included a special section called "*Explanation of Evaluation Measures*" which gives in-depth information about the measures you are completing. This information is provided so that you can use the measures as you complete them, to think about your teaching practices *throughout the year*.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you well and thank you in advance for all of your hard work!

If you are a teacher with two Incredible Years classrooms (for example, you teach both a morning and an afternoon class), please fill out all evaluation materials separately for each of the classrooms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Richmond".

Melissa Richmond, Ph.D.,
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IIK-Incredible Years Program Evaluation Director

OMNI's Approach to Evaluation

Background

OMNI is a nonprofit social science research firm based in Denver. Our organization conducts program evaluation and training primarily in the areas of early childhood education, community health, youth development, and other social service areas. Those of us working on The Incredible Years evaluation team have previously worked on multiple early childhood projects, including the Qualistar assessment, which involved working with preschool directors, teachers and children. OMNI also works with Colorado's Early Childhood State Systems Team, so we are very familiar with the different early childhood programs and services, as well as the current early childhood initiatives, which are taking place in our state. Finally, we have experience with preschool curriculum development and testing, including The Incredible Years curriculum.

Approach to Evaluation

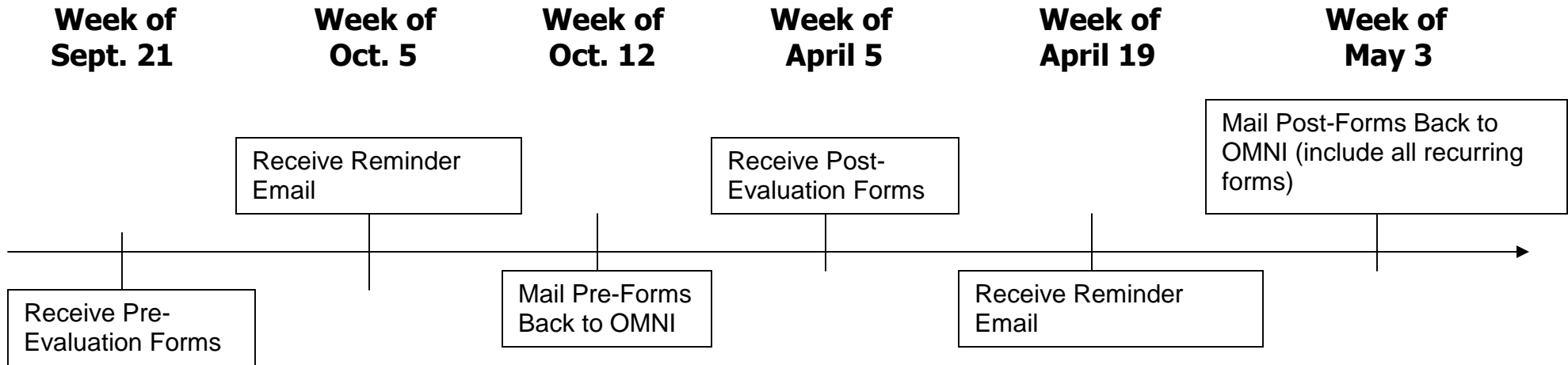
OMNI began working with Invest in Kids during the 2006-2007 school year as their program evaluator. We share a common goal to make the evaluation as seamless and easy as possible for you. In addition, we will strive to make sure that this evaluation is one that is useful to you and provides you with meaningful information.

We realize evaluation can be a burdensome process and feel taxing for those completing the measures. Nevertheless, evaluation is essential to help improve The Incredible Years and to help determine if program participation is related to positive change. We want you to know that the evaluation team has reviewed all of the measures and has made some changes from last year. These changes should not only improve the information we receive, but should also make the evaluation more "user-friendly" for you.

Overall, we hope that the information we glean from the evaluation will improve your experience teaching The Incredible Years curriculum.

For all evaluation purposes, we are happy to help with any problems that you may encounter. We have included a brief explanation about each measure that we are using for the evaluation. This should help ensure that you and the evaluation staff share a common understanding of the purpose of each measure.

Evaluation Timeline



Pre-Evaluation Forms

- Teacher Profile Form
- Social Competence Scale Teacher Scantron Form (one per Child)
- Child ID Tracking Form

Post-Evaluation Forms

- Social Competence Scale Scantron Form
(One for each child, using the same ID number as was on their pre-forms)
- Teacher Satisfaction Questionnaire

Explanation of Evaluation Measures

Completed by the Teacher:

Child ID Tracking Form

In order to maintain the confidentiality of each child, a CHILD ID will be the only identifier written on each child's Social Competence Scale. Once you have written each child's name next to an ID number, that number will be that child's ID for all future evaluation instruments. **Please keep the top (white) copy for yourself. Please mail the bottom (yellow) copy to OMNI.** Please keep the white copy to use when you complete the Social Competence Scale again in April.

Teacher Profile: Pre Only

This measure provides basic information about the background and experiences of all of the teachers delivering the curriculum. This form will be filled out by teachers and paras.

Social Competence Scale: Pre and Post

This measure provides information about each student's prosocial/communication skills, emotional regulation skills, and academic skills based on teacher experience with each child. Lead teacher will complete one social competence scale for each student in classroom at pretest and again at posttest. Please use a #2 pencil to complete these scantron forms.