



Incredible Years Evaluation Guide

2009 - 2010

Parent Group Leader



Dear Incredible Years Parent Group Leaders,

We are excited to join you this year in understanding how The Incredible Years (IY) BASIC Parent Training Program – Early Childhood makes a difference in the lives of young children and their families.

In order to help you through the process, we have created this Evaluation Guide which contains all of the necessary information you will need for the evaluation. You will find helpful materials such as timelines, 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 that you are filling out and those that the parents in your group are filling out. This information is provided so that you can use your completed forms (the ones you fill out) *along the way* to think about how your group is going. We also provide information about the parent measures so that you can feel comfortable explaining them to parents.

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!

Sincerely,

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

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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 that are taking place in our state. Finally, we have experience with preschool curriculum development and testing, including The Incredible Years curriculum.

Approach to Evaluation

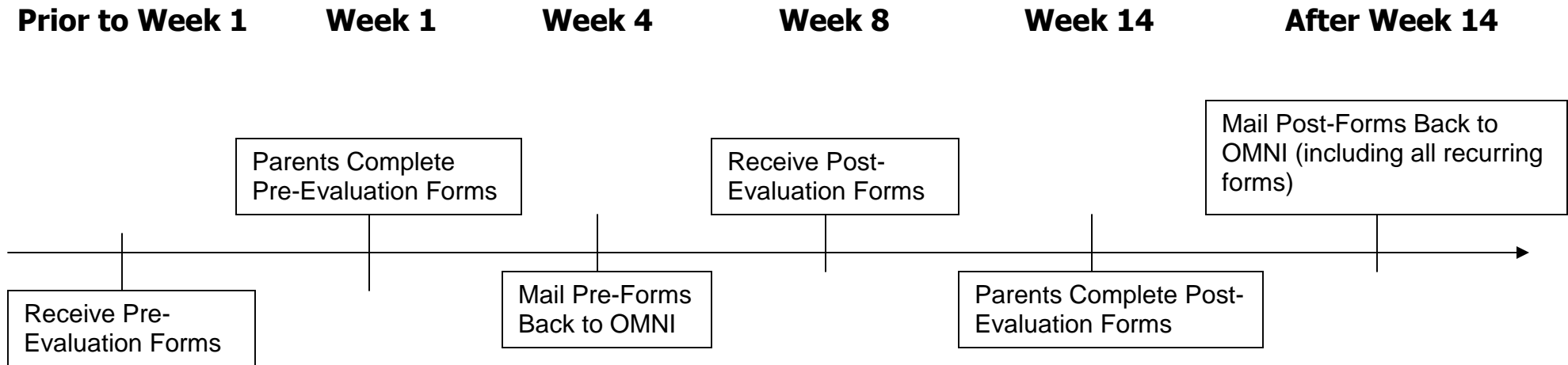
OMNI began working with Invest in Kids during the 2006-2007 school year as their program evaluator. We share a common goal to make the evaluation as seamless and easy as possible for both you and the parents participating in your group. In addition, we will strive to make sure that this evaluation is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

Overall, we hope that the information we glean from the evaluation will allow you to improve your experience as a leader by determining what supports you need to make the program most effective.

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 the evaluation staff, you, and the parents share a common understanding of the purpose of each measure.

Evaluation Timeline



Pre-Evaluation Forms

- Parent Consent Form
- Parent Profile Form
- Social Competence Scale Parent
- Parent Practices Interview
- Parent Group Leader Profile

Post-Evaluation Forms

- Social Competence Scale Parent
- Parent Practices Interview
- Parent Satisfaction Questionnaire

Recurring forms (Sent to you with pre-forms, completed throughout the program, and returned with post-forms)

- Weekly Parent Attendance (send back with post-forms)
- Weekly Evaluation Forms (send back with post-forms)
- Leader Checklist (send back with post-forms)

Explanation of Evaluation Measures

Completed by Parent Group Leader:

Weekly Attendance Sheet – Sessions 1-14

Purpose: (1) to assign a unique parent ID number to each parent, and (2) to keep track of parent attendance.

In order to maintain the confidentiality of each parent, a parent ID will be the only identifier a parent writes on the pre-test and post-test measures he/she completes (except for the consent forms). **Use this sheet as your master form to assign parent ID's.** Once you have written each parent's name next to an ID number, that number will be the unique ID for that parent. **Please give each parent their own ID number** and ask them to write it in the space provided on each measure they return to you. Parents should also write their ID on their folders.

For each session they attend, have parents initial the appropriate box next to their name. This sheet will help us to find out if program outcomes are related to how many groups a parent attends.

Parent Group Leader Profile–

Purpose: To provide background information about group leaders including their experience with parent training, education, age, ethnicity, and extent of The Incredible Years training.

Leader Checklist – Sessions 1-14

Purpose: To be completed weekly after each session by group leaders in order to measure program fidelity. Group leaders fill out what has been covered in terms of content for the evening via group discussion, vignettes and role play. Group leaders also fill-in whether they followed process guidelines such as a weekly agenda, highlighting key principles, etc. When used as a tool during weekly planning, this checklist can guide the group leaders' practice by evaluating strengths and challenges of the group. It can also serve as a reminder of where they left off (if all program material wasn't covered during the session). There is also an opportunity for group leaders to write a brief self-evaluation. This lends itself to proactive and thoughtful reflective practice for each session.

Explanation of Evaluation Measures (Continued)

Each parent should complete a set of forms on their own. Please do not have parents fill them out together. Completed by each parent:

Parent Consent: Pre Only

Purpose: Provides consent to take the surveys at pre and post, as well as to let their data be used to evaluate program success. There are two copies. Parents should return one signed copy to you. They should keep the second copy for their records.

Tell parents this: (See script on following page)

Parent Profile/Demographic Form: Pre Only

Purpose: Provides basic information about household make up, primary caregiver of child, language spoken at home, etc.

Tell parents this: *"This tells us the make-up of families in our communities."*

Social Competence Scale: Pre and Post

Purpose: Provides information about your child's prosocial behaviors, communication skills, and self control based on parent experiences.

Tell parents this: *"This tells us what changes parents notice in their children after the program."*

Parent Practices Interview: Pre and Post

Purpose: Measures specific strategies parents use to manage children's behaviors in the home environment, measures parental responses to various situations, and measures quantity of supervision and interaction parent engages in with their child.

Tell parents this: *"This tells us what strategies families have learned after the program."*

Weekly Evaluation: Recurring (Completed after each of the 14 sessions)

Purpose: Provides feedback and insight to parent group leaders about how well participants understand program content and which learning modalities they find useful e.g. group discussion, video vignettes, etc. This also provides insight to parent group leaders about the level of engagement of participants e.g., what is working well, what needs modification. For example, a participant may remark about how they like hearing different ideas from parents. Thus, parent group leaders would make sure that this continues to happen.

Tell parents this: *"This gives us weekly feedback about how the group is going so we can make ongoing improvements for you."*

Parent Satisfaction Questionnaire: Post Only

Purpose: Opportunity for parents to report on the value of the overall program, teaching format, specific parenting techniques, opinions about their group leader(s), and their ideas about their parent groups.

Tell parents this: *"We have valued your input as participants in the Parent Program. This questionnaire tells us how to make the program even better."*

PARENT PACKET INSTRUCTIONS (“Script” for Parent Group Leaders)

To be read to the group or individually:

- *Today, we will be completing several forms which let us know how The Incredible Years program helps families like yours.*
- *This survey is anonymous – no one but the evaluators will know what you say.*
- *This is not a test, and there are no right or wrong answers. If you don’t find an answer that fits exactly, use the one that comes closest.*
- *The first form is a consent form which tells us that you agree to participate. You can change your decision to participate at any time. Please sign one consent form first and return it to me before you fill out the surveys. Keep one copy of the consent form for your records.*
- *Feel free to skip any question that you do not want to answer.*
- *If you have a question about an item, please let me know.*
- *Does anyone have any questions before we begin?*
- *Please be sure to put your Parent ID number (the ID number next to your name on the sign in sheet) on all of your forms. Please let me know if you need me to give you your number.*
- *Please return the completed surveys to me, and I will mail them directly to OMNI.*
- *Thank you for your help!*

IDEAS FOR COMPLETING PARENT PACKETS (“Tips” for Parent Group Leaders)

- Have a “paper party” a ½ hour before the first parent group starts.
- Provide incentives such as a \$5 gift card to a local market.
- Make sure parents know that it really helps families like theirs.
- Feel free to say something like “It may seem like we’re nosy, but you will remain anonymous”.
- Feel free to help the parents to read through it.
- If you think they won’t have too many questions, let the parents take the forms home and return them the following week.
- Please only fill out one form per child