

Sound Child Care Solutions Program and Outcome Evaluation Strategy

Evaluation of our approach is a key element in our design, since our intention is to develop a replicable model. Our success will be measured by improvements in child outcomes, teaching and classroom environment, administrative effectiveness (a necessary component to high quality early childhood education) and administrative savings. We have selected the following performance measures as the best tools which allow us to carefully assess progress over time.

Child outcomes will be monitored using the Creative Curriculum embedded assessment protocols. These tools measure child development in four key domains, using 50 subset categories. **Teaching and classroom environment** will be evaluated before and after joining the Consortium using the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO) and the Creative Curriculum Implementation Checklist. These tools measure the organization, availability, content, and diversity of reading, writing, and listening materials; the teachers' skills at establishing positive relationships and managing the classroom climate and behaviors; and the use of curriculum supporting cognitive and emotional growth and social skills.

Administrative effectiveness will be measured pre- and post-Consortium using the Program Administration Scale developed by Talan and Jorde-Bloom, a widely acclaimed scale which measures the leadership and management practices of center-based early childhood organizations. All of these measures will be used on an ongoing basis to help us outline and assign organizational tasks to staff, set interim goals and design plans to meet those goals over time.

We will be carefully tracking the **financial impact** of joining the Consortium. Through our due diligence work before centers join us, we have good data on the financial and operational status of centers pre-Consortium. We will be carefully tracking funds saved over time across a wide range of categories. We want to understand exactly the financial and operational benefits to joining. This will be critical both to replication and to encouraging future centers to join.