

Early Learning

INDIANA

Indiana Early Childhood Education Program Quality Study

Do you want to contribute to higher-quality early childhood education in Indiana and improve learning outcomes for children? Early Learning Indiana is collaborating with the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University on an Indiana early childhood education program quality initiative, and we invite you to participate.

STUDY PURPOSE

Through this study, Early Learning Indiana seeks to improve instructional practices and achieve enhanced learning outcomes for children. Program participants will help contribute to a better statewide understanding of what constitutes high-quality learning and inform future efforts to update the Paths to QUALITY™ rating system.

PROCEDURES

This study will take place over the course of two years. If you agree to participate, the first step is to complete the Early Childhood Education Provider Survey. Once completed, we will confirm your participation. Participation in the study involves third-party classroom, teacher and child observations and implementation supports. The study will include one classroom in your program. The NIEER team will reach out with specific information on what to expect across the study period and for each data collection effort.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND RISKS

The study team is committed to ensuring the information you share is strictly confidential. NIEER will store all information on secure devices that can only be accessed by their team, following protocols approved by the board overseeing the protection of research participants (the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Rutgers University). Any reports of this study will only include group results and no individual information. There are no foreseeable risks involved in participating in this study. In the improbable event that confidentiality is breached, NIEER will follow mandatory protocols outlined by the IRB at Rutgers University and you will be notified as part of this process.

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BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

By participating in this study, you are helping Early Learning Indiana learn more about early childhood education program quality, improve instructional practices and achieve enhanced learning outcomes for children. This will not only benefit your program directly, but also broadly benefit the entire Indiana early childhood education system. Program participants will receive initial and ongoing incentives valued at \$2,000 for completing required program objectives.

YOUR PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this study is voluntary – meaning you decide whether or not you would like to participate. Your decision whether or not to participate will in no way affect your relationship with Early Learning Indiana. Even if you choose to participate, you may change your mind at any time without penalty. If you wish to withdraw, contact Dr. Milagros Nores at mnores@nieer.org.

QUESTIONS AND CONSENT

If you have any questions about this study, please contact Carol Contreras at NIEER (ccontreras@nieer.org). By completing the Early Childhood Education Provider Survey, you agree to participate in this study.