

# Keeping Children Safe: An Evaluation of the MBF Child Safety Matters™ Program

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An independent evaluation of the *MBF Child Safety Matters* Program was conducted by the Florida State University's School of Teacher Education from January through June 2015. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the overall effectiveness of the *MBF Child Safety Matters* Program in Florida. The study also sought to identify factors that contributed to helping or hindering change, and draw lessons for future programming.



## EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the *MBF Child Safety Matters* Program against its overall goal.
- Determine the extent to which the intervention adheres to the protocol and program model as originally developed.
- Assess the extent to which students participating in the MBF program achieved the desired objectives at a satisfactory level.
- Draw lessons for future programming.

## EVALUATION METHODS

- A desk-based review of *MBF Child Safety Matters* documentation, lessons, and teaching resources.
- A survey developed by the researchers and administered to the trained facilitators.
- Semi-structured qualitative interviews conducted with 12 trained facilitators.
- Observations of 12 MBF CSM lessons presented by various facilitators across several grades.
- Pre- and post-tests administered to 620 students in 6 schools in 3 Florida districts.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- The findings suggest that the program is being **delivered as designed** and with **high procedural fidelity** to the prescribed curriculum, with **90% of participating facilitators adhering to program language and curriculum**.
- The evaluation findings suggest that the quality of program delivery is adequate and that there are **many positive elements** of the program.
- The lessons are **clear, easy to implement, age appropriate**, and they **appropriately cover a broad range of child safety issues**, however many find it difficult to complete all activities with limited classroom time.
- **Most participating students achieved pre- to post-test gains** on the measures of interest.

***Evidence from the pre/post-test assessments suggest that the MBF Child Safety Matters program is successful in educating elementary students with strategies to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, digital abuse, and all types of child abuse.***

View the entire FSU report at [www.mbfchildsafetymatters.org](http://www.mbfchildsafetymatters.org).