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.