



Mosaic Evaluation Summary

Evaluation is critical to the continued improvement of our program. Students are assessed for their affect, experience and understanding of key concepts and skills just before and after their outdoor school experience, six months after their attendance, as well as five years later if we can reach them. We have a complementary suite of surveys taken by the teachers, parents, cabin leaders and alumni. These methods have confirmed that our approach is extremely effective. Additionally, we are creating a quantitative assessment that statistically analyzes changes in our students over time, comparing violence, empathy, self-esteem, etc. in students who have participated in our programs with similar students who have not.

Teachers also share their students' written work with us after they return to school. Students' essays, poems, and artwork are excellent indicators of what they have retained.

Summary of Fall 2007 Outdoor School Program Quantitative Assessment

Nanette Cowardin-Lee, a PhD candidate at Alliant International University in San Francisco, worked with The Mosaic Project in 2007-8 to redesign our evaluations to make them more consistent and rigorous. She also performed an initial analysis of our fall 2007 pre and post program surveys and compared them to data from the 2007 California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). While we have yet to do an analysis of some more longitudinal data, we had some very interesting trends emerge from Nan's analysis. These results imply that our program increases the abilities in our students in the areas of empathy, conflict resolution, anger management, and identification of discrimination, as well as increases students' self-esteem, contentment with school, appreciation of difference, and visioning of the future.

As in the past, the vast majority of our students rate the program highly.

78.2% responded that they would highly recommend the program to other children

81.0% responded with high marks for the program

When we compared students' scores on the following measures before and after the program we found statistically significant* increases in a range of areas, some of which are summarized below. These changes represent learning and transformation that has taken place during the outdoor school experience.

Community

*Do you feel close to people at school? (2.82/3.04)**

Are you happy to be at school? (2.88/3.08)

I try to make sure other kids feel included. (3.15/3.26)

“One major thing I appreciate about Mosaic was that I felt like everyone was so friendly and the moment that I walked onto the campgrounds I was overwhelmed by happiness and open mindedness... During the week I made 11 friends to be exact, all in which I have e-mail/phone number.” –Scout

“Mosaic was the first sleepover I had gone to and I felt like I had gone to 20, I was so accepted. I think every child should have this experience.” -Ellie

Self-esteem

Do you like yourself? (3.50/3.62)

List some reasons why you are an important person. (0.945/1.46)

“Thank you for creating such an awesome program for kids! I feel like you made me a better and happier person.” -Paulina.

Appreciation of difference and identification of discrimination

Differences between people are interesting (2.73/3.09)

Do you like to get to know people who are different from you? (2.95/3.24)

Define stereotype (54/268)

Define prejudice (47/251)

Define discrimination (68/216)

“All in all, Mosaic was really fun. It taught me to appreciate diversity. Now I can try to teach other people about equality. Mosaic was one of the best weeks of my life.” -Isaac

Empathy

Do you try to understand how other people feel? (2.87/3.10)

Do you feel bad when someone else gets their feelings hurt? (2.92/3.18)

Define empathy (70/256)

“I learned a lot of things at Mosaic, but one of the biggest things I learned was to have more empathy for people.” –Bella

“I think I’ll be a much better friend now that I’ve gone to Mosaic.” –Pauline

Conflict Resolution Skills

Do you hit or push other kids at school when they are not just playing around? (1.007/0.868)

List some things you can do when trying to resolve a conflict (problem.) (1.205/2.24)

List some helpful things you can do when you are angry or upset. (1.29/2.40)

“At Mosaic, I did a lot of activities and made a lot more friends. But I think I really learned a lot about peace that week more than anything. So, now if I have a problem I’ll think of everything I learned. For example, I will remember the difference between assertiveness and aggressiveness and how to use the five steps of conflict resolution. Mosaic left me feeling that maybe some day we will find world peace.” -Nick

***=Student’s t-test, $p \leq 0.05$**

The numbers following the questions are pre and post program survey mean response, respectively. The questions where students rated their feelings are on a scale of 1 to 4. The questions asking for a list are the mean number of valid answers. Those asking for a definition are the number that had a valid definition. These results are based on paired surveys taken by 326 children from various schools representing different socio-economic strata. This sample has enough power to be able to extrapolate findings to a demographically similar population of approximately 300,000 children with a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of 4 – 5%.