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## **Empirical Evaluation of Program Evaluations for Rainbows Levels 1-4 and Spectrum Levels One and Two**

### **Conclusion**

Since 2003 our Registered Sites across the United States have administered age/group level specific evaluations to their participants both before and after their Rainbows experience. The collection of this data helped us gather descriptive measures or percentages to show change over time, but it is important to the organization to also test whether the children experience statistically significant and positive change in their feelings from pre-test to post-test.

This evaluation was completed in October 2006 by Dr. Michaela L. Z. Farber, PhD of the National Catholic School of Social Service, The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and here are her findings:

1. In summary, the evaluations being used by Rainbows on all levels indicate reliability and empirical validity in that all the questions are part of one construct – meaning all the questions belong to one whole concept.
2. It was found that participants who experience Rainbows exhibit statistically significant, positive change in their ability to communicate their feelings from pre-test to post-test evaluations.
3. These participants experience this positive change regardless of age, gender and despite the type of loss or number of losses that caused them to join the Rainbows support groups.
4. Participating in the Rainbows program provides the children with a higher appraisal of their well-being and may enable them to confidently cope with life's changes and make better choices in behavior.