

Incredible Years-Dinosaur School & BASIC Parent Program

Early Learning Center at Gregory Hill

Westminster, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education



The Early Learning Center at Gregory Hill strives to prepare the whole child for success in elementary school. One of the goals is to empower parents with programs to be advocates for their children. Incorporating the Incredible Years program into the curriculum encourages and supports the home-school partnership. The Incredible Years promotes positive relationships between parent, teacher, and child. It improves academic success, reduces challenging behaviors, promotes positive and consistent discipline, and supports caregivers.

The Incredible Years offers different components which include Dinosaur School and the Preschool BASIC Parent Program. These programs foster the social emotional competence of children and promote academic success.

Dinosaur School is planned and implemented by trained teachers and staff members who co-lead lessons using puppets to target problem solving, self-regulation, anger management, and peer interactions. The BASIC Parent Program is facilitated by trained staff members who guide groups of parents as they learn strategies and skills that promote children's social competence and reduce challenging behaviors. Topics include how to play with their children, social/emotional, academic, and persistence skills coaching, effective praise, and the use of incentives. The Parent Program meets weekly for 14 sessions and the first half hour of each session begins with a shared meal. Each session is offered in both English and Spanish and childcare is provided.



Integrating both the Dinosaur School and the Preschool BASIC Parent Program fosters and supports a child's social emotional competence across environments. When implementing these components of the Incredible Years Program, parents gain information and tools to encourage the development of their child's skills. Parents are empowered to be advocates for their children which can positively impact their academic success.



In order to evaluate the program, the Dinosaur School teachers and BASIC Parent Program facilitators completed demographic information about themselves and their students and participants. In addition, the Dinosaur School teachers and the BASIC Parent Program participants completed a Social Competence Scale at the beginning and end of the program or school year. Observations and coaching were completed during both components of the Incredible Years program to support fidelity. During the 20-21 school year the team implemented these programs virtually. They found this to be challenging as they were not able to build deeper connections and parent's participation was limited.

Creating a strong home-school partnership during the early years of a child's development positively impacts student success. The team's advice to others when implementing the programs provided through the Incredible Years is it is important to do so with fidelity in order to see the most successful results. Following through with observations and coaching will provide the Dinosaur School teachers and the BASIC Parent Program facilitators with the support needed to create a successful home-school partnership.

Standard 3—Supporting Student Success

Essential Element 3—Design Capacity-Building Opportunities