

**SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF DE-
BRIEFING FOLLOW-UP CALLS TO
PARENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN
THE EXTENSIVE CICC DISCOVERY
TOOL RESEARCH STUDY, 2002-2004**

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Submitted by:
Evaluation and Training Institute



CICC Debriefing Telephone Call Summary

Introduction

ETI conducted a series of debriefing telephone calls with parents who participated in the Discovery Tool test and retest to determine participant reactions to the Discovery Tool and whether or not resources provided by CICC were used by participants. The survey consisted of a series of quantitative questions tracking the parents' use of the Discovery Tool and its accompanying resources, followed by open-ended qualitative questions asking parents to provide general feedback.

In total, 217 parents with children from 0 months up to five years at the time of the initial test participated in the telephone survey. Findings from the survey can be found on the following pages. Quantitative data is presented first, followed by samples of the qualitative responses.

Questions on the telephone survey covered the following topics:

- Types of materials and support parents have received;
- Changes in understanding of child development issues;
- Further tests and resources parents intend to use to track child development; and,
- Reactions to the Discovery Tool.

The survey also offered parents an opportunity to offer more qualitative responses to how they felt about the Discovery Tool and how it may have affected their understanding of child development.

Quantitative findings

Types of materials and support parents have received

- As seen in **Tables 1 to 4**, nearly all of the surveyed parents received and used all of the resources provided by CICC in relation to the Discovery Tool. Only one parent who received the Discovery Tool Results did not read them.

**Table 1.
Feedback and Resources Parents Have Received
Overall**

Parents who have received...	Total
	(n=217)
<i>Parenting Skills Building Programs, Books and Videos</i> resources packet	96%
<i>Agencies and Websites that Can Help</i> resource packet	98
Results of the two Discovery Tool Tests	100

**Table 2.
Feedback and Resources Parents Have Received
By Child's Age**

Parents who have received...	Age (in months)										
	0 to 3 (n=7)	4 to 5 (n=5)	6 to 8 (n=13)	9 to 11 (n=6)	12 to 14 (n=11)	15 to 17 (n=9)	18 to 23 (n=18)	24 to 29 (n=33)	30 to 35 (n=32)	36 to 47 (n=52)	48 or more (n=31)
<i>Parenting Skills Building Programs, Books and Videos</i> resources packet	100%	100%	92%	100%	82%	89%	100%	97%	97%	96%	100%
<i>Agencies and Websites that Can Help</i> resource packet	100	100	100	100	82	89	100	97	100	100	97
Results of the two Discovery Tool Tests	100	100	92	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Parents who reported receive the Discovery Tool results were asked whether they read the results. The results are captured in **Tables 3** and **4** below.

Table 3.
Parents Who Have Read Discovery Tool Results
Overall

Parents who have ...	Total
	(n=217)
... read the letter and reviewed the results	99%

Table 4.
Parents Who Have Read Discovery Tool Results
By Child's Age

Parents who have ...	Age (in months)										
	0 to 3 (n=7)	4 to 5 (n=5)	6 to 8 (n=13)	9 to 11 (n=6)	12 to 14 (n=11)	15 to 17 (n=9)	18 to 23 (n=18)	24 to 29 (n=33)	30 to 35 (n=32)	36 to 47 (n=52)	48 or more (n=31)
... read the letter and reviewed the results	100%	100%	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%

Changes in understanding of child development issues

- As seen in **Table 5**, over a third (37%) of the parents responded “very much” when asked the extent to which they had a better understanding of basic skills involved in child development as a result of taking the Discovery Tool. An additional 44 percent responded “somewhat” to the same question.
- Similar percentages of parents responded either “very much” (37%) or “somewhat” (41%) when asked the extent to which they “had a better understanding of potential problem behaviors” after taking the Discovery Tool. Similar trends to these two questions could be found in every age group (see **Table 6**) in response to these two questions.
- Nearly three-of-four (71%) parents reported that they agreed “very much” with the Discovery Tool findings. Parents of children 18 months (a year and a half) or older at the time of the test were slightly less inclined to agree “very much” with the findings, excepting the parents of children from 30 to 35 months (2 years and 6 months to 2 years and 11 months), of whom 82 percent agreed “very much.”

Table 5.
Extent to which Parents Have Benefited from Using the Discovery Tool Overall

After taking the Discovery Tool, to what extent do parents have a better understanding of...	Total
	(n=197)
Have a better understanding of basic skills involved in child development	
Very Much	37%
Somewhat	44
A little	11
Not at all	8
Have a better understanding of potential problem behaviors	
Very Much	37
Somewhat	41
A little	13
Not at all	9
Agree with the Discovery Tool findings	
Very Much	71
Somewhat	16
A little	6
Not at all	7

Table 6.
Extent to which Parents Have Benefited from Using the Discovery Tool
Overall

After taking the Discovery Tool, to what extent do parents have a better understanding of...	Age (in months)										
	0 to 3	4 to 5	6 to 8	9 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 23	24 to 29	30 to 35	36 to 47	48 or more
	(n=6)	(n=4)	(n=13)	(n=6)	(n=10)	(n=9)	(n=17)	(n=32)	(n=27)	(n=49)	(n=24)
Have a better understanding of basic skills involved in child development											
Very Much	14%	50%	39%	33%	64%	33%	33%	33%	38%	31%	48%
Somewhat	71	25	31	17	36	33	61	39	44	48	42
A little	--	--	31	17	--	33	6	9	9	14	7
Not at all	14	25	--	33	--	--	--	18	9	8	3
Have a better understanding of potential problem behaviors											
Very Much	--	25	23	33	64	56	28	39	44	40	29
Somewhat	86	50	62	17	36	22	44	39	31	37	52
A little	--	--	8	17	--	22	28	6	16	15	13
Not at all	14	25	8	33	--	--	--	15	9	8	7
Agree with the Discovery Tool findings											
Very Much	83	50	69	100	90	100	71	69	82	61	58
Somewhat	--	25	23	--	10	--	12	16	11	25	21
A little	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	3	4	8	17
Not at all	17	25	8	--	--	--	12	13	4	6	4

Further tests and resources parents intend to use to track child development

- As seen in **Table 7**, At least 73 percent of the parents reported that they would be willing to retake the Discovery Tool (73%), learn more about child development by joining parenting classes and groups (83%), or talk to a health care professional (81%). Over half of the parents also stated that they would contact a treatment, resource, or referral agency about available services (59%) or contact CICC for further help (67%).
- Nearly half (47%) of the surveyed parents reported that they would be pursuing additional resources about child development. When asked to specify what additional resources they would seek out, most parents responded that they would look for books and publications. Several also stated that they would search for more resources on the internet.
- As seen in **Table 8**, responses did not follow age-specific trends.

Table 7.
Future Actions Parents will Take to Learn More about Child Development Overall

Parents who will do the following after using the Discovery Tool...	Total
	(n=216)
Re-take the Discovery Tool	
Yes	73%
No	10
Don't know	17
Learn more about child development by joining a parenting class, seminar or group, etc.	
Yes	83
No	7
Don't know	10
Talk to a pediatrician, psychologist, or other health care professional	
Yes	81
No	12
Don't know	7
Contact a treatment, resource, or referral agency about available services	
Yes	59
No	24
Don't know	18
Contact CICC for further help	
Yes	67
No	5
Don't know	28
Pursue other resources	
Yes	47
No	14
Don't know	39

Table 8.
Future Actions Parents will Take to Learn More about Child Development
By Child's Age

Parents who will do the following after using the Discovery Tool...	Age (in months)										
	0 to 3 (n=7)	4 to 5 (n=5)	6 to 8 (n=13)	9 to 11 (n=6)	12 to 14 (n=11)	15 to 17 (n=9)	18 to 23 (n=18)	24 to 29 (n=33)	30 to 35 (n=31)	36 to 47 (n=52)	48 or more (n=31)
Re-take the Discovery Tool											
Yes	100%	80%	85%	50%	91%	89%	61%	76%	77%	60%	77%
No	--	20	--	50	--	11	11	6	--	15	13
Don't know	--	--	15	--	9	--	28	18	23	25	10
Learn more about child development by joining a parenting class, seminar or group, etc.											
Yes	86	80	85	83	82	67	56	91	72	90	90
No	14	--	--	17	9	22	17	3	13	2	7
Don't know	--	20	15	--	9	11	28	6	16	8	3
Talk to a pediatrician, psychologist, or other health care professional											
Yes	86	100	77	83	91	67	72	85	78	79	84
No	--	--	15	--	9	22	28	12	9	10	13
Don't know	14	--	8	17	--	11	--	3	13	12	3
Contact a treatment, resource, or referral agency about available services											
Yes	71	80	69	50	73	56	28	64	53	62	61
No	14	20	23	33	18	33	44	21	19	19	26
Don't know	14	--	8	17	9	11	28	15	28	19	13
Contact CICC for further help											
Yes	100	80	62	60	73	89	78	49	63	58	81
No	--	--	--	--	18	--	6	6	9	4	3
Don't know	--	20	39	40	9	11	17	46	28	37	16
Pursue other resources											
Yes	86	20	54	60	36	22	39	58	44	44	48
No	14	--	8	20	18	22	11	6	16	15	19
Don't know	--	80	39	20	46	56	50	36	41	40	32

Reactions to the Discovery Tool

- As seen in **Table 9**, nearly nine-of-ten (88%) of the parents found the Discovery Tool to be either “helpful” or “very helpful.” The tool’s utility was stressed by parents of children of all ages (see **Table 10**).
- Parents of children of all ages had a range of reactions to the Discovery Tool. Over one-third (36%) reported that they were “relieved” by the tool’s results, while nearly one-in-five (18%), reported that they felt less concerned. A similar percentage (20%) of the parents stated that they did not have particular feelings, one way or another, as a result of the Discovery Tool.

Table 9.
Reactions to the Discovery Tool
Overall

Overall, how would you describe ...	Total
	(n=205)
The study’s helpfulness	
Very helpful	30%
Helpful	58
Not very helpful	13
Feelings the study gave you	
More concerned	11
Less concerned	18
Relieved	36
Relieved and More concerned	3
Relieved and Less concerned	4
Don’t know	7
None	20
None and Relieved	1
Other feelings from the study	
Had other feelings	35
No other feelings	65

Table 10.
Reactions to the Discovery Tool
By Child's Age

	Age (in months)										
Overall, how would you describe ...	0 to 3 (n=4)	4 to 5 (n=4)	6 to 8 (n=12)	9 to 11 (n=5)	12 to 14 (n=11)	15 to 17 (n=9)	18 to 23 (n=17)	24 to 29 (n=31)	30 to 35 (n=32)	36 to 47 (n=50)	48 or more (n=31)
The study's helpfulness											
Very helpful	25%	25%	33%	--	73%	33%	18%	29%	31%	20%	40%
Helpful	50	25	67	80	18	67	77	48	56	64	57
Not very helpful	25	50	--	20	9	--	6	23	13	16	3
Feelings the study gave you											
More concerned	--	20	8	17	9	11	6	9	--	19	16
Less concerned	--	20	8	--	9	11	17	24	22	21	19
Relieved	29	60	54	50	46	44	28	24	44	25	45
Relieved and More concerned	--	--	--	--	9	--	--	3	9	--	3
Relieved and Less concerned	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	6	--	4	10
Don't know	43	--	8	--	--	--	18	3	3	14	3
None	29	--	23	33	27	33	28	30	19	17	3
None and Relieved	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	0	--
Other feelings from the study											
Had other feelings	--	60	31	17	50	44	39	42	35	25	45
No other feelings	100	40	69	83	50	56	61	58	66	75	55

Qualitative Findings

Feelings about the findings

Interviewers asked parents who stated that they had “other feelings” about after using the Discovery Tool (73 in total) to explain what sort of feelings they had. A sample of these responses is shown below. Responses were recorded as either observations or direct quotes and are presented as they were recorded by the interviewers:

- [The parent is] happy that her daughter is doing okay at her age and knowing she is at her level is good.
- [The parent is] glad there was nothing wrong.
- [The parent is] very excited about the information provided.
- “[I was] upset and sad [about the results]. Worried, but glad that I caught it early thanks to the Tool. I had discussed my concerns about his development with his pediatrician but she said to wait and that he would outgrow it.”
- [The parent found the instrument to be] very interesting. [It is a] good tool for people who were concerned but may be shy or embarrassed or feel bad that their child is having problems. Good icebreaker - gets parents to open up and make them feel comfortable, not awkward.
- “[I am] happy and felt good about learning more, especially about my child with Down Syndrome. I am now more focused on her age development at the age she is at.”
- “I felt less concerned after receiving the results. I really loved this tool. I realized that I was not helping my child as much as I could, during play time. I should try more educational play, because I do not want to stunt her growth or development.”
- [The parent felt] relief and [was] glad to know where her daughter stands and that she is at the right place in her development. Not slow; not missing anything.
- This parent was upset, because her child's result indicated a possible special needs, and she did not agree. Mother also felt the letter received with the results, was very impersonal.
- “I was happy that my child was developing quickly. I want to go online to see how she compares now that she is a bit older.”
- “It's a great Tool. Very happy to be a part of your study. Learned a lot! Thank You.”

Additional Comments

When wrapping up the interview, interviewers asked parents “do you have any additional concerns, questions or comments?” Nearly half (47%) of the parents offered additional comments about the Discovery Tool. A sample of these responses are displayed again. Again, responses were recorded as either observations or direct quotes and are presented as they were recorded by the interviewers:

- “It was worth it to participate in the study even though it took two Saturdays. Anytime that you spend on your children is worth it because you learn something. It was a very good experience.”
- “This experience has been very helpful to me. It has helped me know where my child is and what help he needs. Thank you!”
- [The parent found] part 2 [of the study to be] very helpful and informative. Parent got to see many things her child was able and not able to do. Seeing her child assessed, helped her see how she could help her child exceed in entering private school settings.
- “The questions on the Discovery Tool were well thought out and went down to the itty-gritty.”
- “The overall experience was helpful; however, it was difficult to choose between ‘True’ or ‘False’ answers.”
- “Overall experience was helpful; however, some questions are very general, and it is difficult to choose between False and True answers.”
- [The parent stated] that when she received her assessment report, she was disappointed. And, that it did not make sense to her. It did not say if anything was wrong, or make any recommendations about what child could benefit from.
- "In my opinion, the Discovery Tool questions are pretty basic. I already knew about my daughter's sleeping problems; however, the Tool did not ask me any further questions to help me investigate this problem".
- “Thank you for your test. It has helped me understand my son better.”
- “I had feeling [a] something was wrong with my son's development but no one would believe me. People just said that he would outgrow it, that all kids grow differently (I have two other sons). I was very relieved when the DT agreed with my suspicions.”
- “As a child educator, I am familiar with basic skills and problem behaviors in child development. Nevertheless, participating in your study was [an] interesting experience. I think that taking the D.T. is a great way for parents to learn more about their children.”