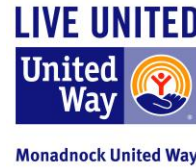


# Impact Monadnock Outcomes, Challenges, & Opportunities

Summary Implementation Evaluation Report  
3/1/15 - 6/30/17



**Mission:** To prepare children from birth to age five in the Monadnock Region for future academic, career, and life success.

**Vision:** All children in the Monadnock Region and their families are healthy, learning, and thriving, now and in the future.

## Background:

The work of Impact Monadnock (IM) is guided by a strategic plan developed by more than 30 community members over 8 months (September 2015-May 2016).

From February 2015 through April 2017, IM's efforts were led by Marj Droppa, Ph.D. with support by members of the leadership team and core infrastructure support provided by Monadnock United Way (MUW) and Spark NH.

In 2016 – 2017, IM organized multiple educational presentations to community members on the importance of early childhood development, training and technical assistance efforts, as well as collaborations with local and regional partners. IM carried out substantial portions of its work through 3 project teams (Emotional & Behavioral Health, Early Childhood Supports, and Family Supports) and an engaged group of local business leaders.



In 2017, IM successfully transitioned into MUW as a signature impact initiative in early childhood. The merger will allow growth in IM's initiatives through the support of MUW staff, board and volunteers, as well as allow MUW to incorporate a highly successful community-building model into its operations.

## Key Accomplishments to Date:

- Substantive progress in raising awareness of the needs of young children and their families in the Monadnock Region.
- More than 70 presentations and trainings related to Impact Monadnock outcomes, reaching nearly 2,000 local citizens.
- Creation of Impact Monadnock Business Ambassadors to build greater business support for early childhood development and expand child- and family-friendly policies and practices in the workplace. Nineteen businesses have joined the Business Ambassadors, and 4 have adopted a “Babies at Work” program.
- Increased utilization of *Ages & Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ:SE-2)* developmental screening tool in medical and educational settings.
- Creation of a new learning community of early childhood professionals to share best practices for improved behavioral and emotional support of children in the classroom, based on the *Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children*.
- Two *Vroom* launch events and distribution of materials in the Region, equipping parents and caregivers with knowledge and tools to turn every day moments into brain-building moments for children 0-5.
- Survey sent to 800+ stakeholders to assess perspectives and identify successes and challenges moving forward.
- Successful transition and incorporation of IM into the Monadnock United Way.

## Quotes from the Community: Examples of IM's Early Success

"Early childhood stories have appeared more frequently in the local media. More businesses are talking about family-friendly policies. *Vroom* is everywhere!"

"We are screening more children for social emotional concerns."

"I've been active in the preschool group and have seen the positive impact that the *Pyramid Model* training has had in many preschool settings."



### Key Findings & Recommendations:

The Impact Monadnock early childhood development initiative, its staff, stakeholders, and the community served have much to celebrate from its inaugural launch. In moving forward, for continuously improving its efforts, there are several areas recommended for additional discussion and follow up.

- *Improve collaboration across sectors.* Additional outreach is needed to individuals representing other types of social services, health providers, parents and others to invite participation in supporting IM's mission.
- *Determine how to better support the range of groups that can develop, within the confines of staff time and other organizational resources while staying on track with the strategic plan.* A process should be developed to guide and support the development of new initiatives within IM while maintaining sufficient oversight, balancing limited resources and aligning with IM's strategic plan.
- *Improve communication efforts across IM.* There are many who are not aware of major activities undertaken by IM and/or who do not feel that they are able to assess what progress IM has made towards its overall goals. Communication activities in Year 2 should identify multiple strategies for addressing this challenge.
- *Address potential geographic disparities in IM's outreach efforts.* IM leadership should conduct an annual review of its geographic reach to ensure that outreach and support efforts include towns outside of the immediate Keene area.
- *Balance efforts necessary to carry out systems change with supporting improvements at the individual level.* Systems change efforts can take years to come to fruition. IM leadership should continually review its efforts to create short-term individual level change while working toward affecting long-term systems change.
- *Continue to refine assessment measures of project impact.* IM should establish a clear understanding of the system-wide indicators that we seek to change, the roles of each partner in achieving that change, and the documentation of reliable measures tied to program activities.

Start Small. Think Big.



**For the full text of the Implementation Evaluation Report, or to learn more about Impact Monadnock, please visit [www.impactmonadnock.org](http://www.impactmonadnock.org), email [im@muw.org](mailto:im@muw.org) or call 603-352-4209.**

