

## Recommendation for NCAST PCI Renewal of Reliability\*

Since all observers are known to drift over time in the interpretation of the behavioral criteria of coding schemes, it is mandatory to check reliability on a periodic basis. Research has shown that reliability begins to drift by 6 months following initial training. For this reason we encourage all learners to re-establish reliability every **12 months** using the NCAST Parent-Child Interaction Feeding and Teaching Reliability videos.

Re-establishing reliability on a yearly basis is important for several reasons. It provides

- a high standard of quality
- a qualified staff
- proof of re-reliability in the form of a letter
- protection when records are subpoenaed by the courts
- accurate data
- assurance that families in your community get the best evaluations
- more frequent use of the scales in practice
- increased confidence when intervening with families

To promote re-reliability in the scales, we encourage instructors to hold re-reliability training annually or as often as feasible and to send out notices of upcoming re-reliability training to past learners. If this type of training is not available, learners are encouraged to contact their former instructor and request this training or call the PCR Programs office for instructors in their area.

To prepare for re-reliability certification, we recommend studying the item descriptors, scoring a couple of practice tapes, and then scoring the five caregiver-child pairs on the NCAST reliability videos with an instructor present. *NCAST Programs charges \$35 USD per scale for processing re-reliability.* Two attempts are included in the cost. If a third attempt is necessary an additional \$15 is required. Letters of re-certification are sent to for those who renew their reliability. The names are entered in the NCAST International Registry. If you need more information please call the office.

***Renewing reliability assures that the families in your community receive the best evaluations possible***

\* For information about re-establishing Instructor or Research Reliability contact the PCR Programs office.