Assessing the Impact of Child Care Centers on Families

Thank you for providing your views of the ways your child care center supports families. The results of this study will be used to provide feedback so the center can build stronger partnerships with families. To get an accurate view of the center, it is important that we hear from everyone. Every person's view is important.

Considering the child care center facility and operation, how supportive is the center of families?

Please rate each of the following:

Strong	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Don't Know/ Doesn't Apply	
☐	☐	☐	☐	makes services easily accessible in terms of operating hours
☐	☐	☐	☐	makes services easily accessible in terms of flexible scheduling
☐	☐	☐	☐	application forms are easy to use and understand
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides full information on center policies and procedures
☐	☐	☐	☐	has sick child policies that work for families
☐	☐	☐	☐	involves parents on an advisory committee regarding policy and program development, implementation, and evaluation
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides a drop-off and pick-up area that is convenient, friendly, and attractive
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides a private space for staff to talk with family members about their child's development
☐	☐	☐	☐	responds appropriately to injuries that occur at the center
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides a safe environment for children

Considering what happens at the child care center, how supportive is the center of families?

Please rate each of the following:

Strong	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Don't Know/ Doesn't Apply	
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides families with information about what is happening <u>at the center</u>
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides families with information about what is happening <u>in the classroom</u>
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides opportunities for family members to be involved in the classroom
☐	☐	☐	☐	keeps in touch with parents about their child's development
☐	☐	☐	☐	gives attention to children's individual needs
☐	☐	☐	☐	works hand-in-hand with parents to deal with problems that may arise
☐	☐	☐	☐	offers frequent opportunities for parents to interact informally with other parents
☐	☐	☐	☐	involves immediate and extended family members in supporting the child
☐	☐	☐	☐	facilitates successful transitions for children and parents (e.g., drop-off and pick-up)
☐	☐	☐	☐	schedules teachers' time to maximize face-to-face communication with parents
☐	☐	☐	☐	works with parents to schedule mutually agreeable times for non-emergency communication
☐	☐	☐	☐	makes families feel welcome and comfortable

Considering your knowledge of the child care center, how supportive is the center of different families?

Please rate each of the following:

Strong	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Don't Know/ Doesn't Apply	
☐	☐	☐	☐	respects families from various backgrounds (e.g., racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, geographic, etc.)
☐	☐	☐	☐	respects families' ability to parent
☐	☐	☐	☐	recognizes the complexity of caring for family members with special needs (e.g., physically or mentally disabled, or chronically ill)
☐	☐	☐	☐	offers services that provide support to families who need it most (e.g., single-parent families; low-income families; families experiencing adoption, divorce, or incarceration)

There are many things that child care centers can do to support families.

Please indicate which things that YOU think would be most USEFUL for supporting families at your center. If your center already has the item, check the column that says "already exists." (Services depend upon the center's resources so strong interest in an item does not imply that it will become available.)

Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Very Likely	Already Exists	
☐	☐	☐	☐	Parent-to-parent support groups
☐	☐	☐	☐	Drop-in child care (e.g., for older children, during after school hours)

Extended center hours:

☐	☐	☐	☐	Evening hours
☐	☐	☐	☐	Occasional weekend hours
☐	☐	☐	☐	Extended summer hours

Classes offered at the center on:

☐	☐	☐	☐	Parenting skills
☐	☐	☐	☐	Relationship skills
☐	☐	☐	☐	Ways to support children's learning

Written communications (newsletters, fact sheets, etc.) about:

☐	☐	☐	☐	Parenting skills
☐	☐	☐	☐	Relationship skills
☐	☐	☐	☐	Ways to support children's learning

Opportunities to get involved with the center:

☐	☐	☐	☐	Volunteering in classrooms, at center events, etc.
☐	☐	☐	☐	Contributing items for classrooms, donation drives, etc.

Looking beyond what happens at the child care center, how well does the center support the lives of families?

Please rate the following as "strong," "adequate," or "needs improvement," **OR** if you think an item is not important for the center to provide, check the column "not necessary":

Strong	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Not Necessary	
☐	☐	☐	☐	coordinates with other services that families use (e.g., in-school therapies, after school activities, summer programs)
☐	☐	☐	☐	connects families to other programs and services that support children's healthy development (e.g., recreational activities, religious organizations, food pantries, health care, housing assistance, etc.)
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides <u>informal</u> opportunities to strengthen parenting skills
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides <u>formal</u> opportunities to strengthen parenting skills
☐	☐	☐	☐	offers programs for families on ways they can support their children's learning
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides programs to strengthen couple/marital relationships
☐	☐	☐	☐	provides opportunities for families to support the center
☐	☐	☐	☐	recognizes that major family changes such as adoption, divorce, or incarceration require ongoing support
☐	☐	☐	☐	builds on informal family ties such as community/neighborhood organizations, religious communities, and parent support groups
☐	☐	☐	☐	focuses efforts on preventing family problems before they become a crisis

What would help you to be more effective in supporting families at the center?

Are there other ways that the center could help support families?

Additional comments:

Staff Background

To better understand how child care centers support families, it will help us to know the background of the child care professionals who have participated in the study. Please provide the following information about yourself. Do not include your name on the sheet.

What is your gender?   ☐ Female   ☐ Male   **How old are you?** _____

To what racial or ethnic group do you belong?

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native   ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
☐ Asian   ☐ White (not Hispanic)
☐ Black or African American   ☐ Other Racial/Ethnic composition_____
☐ Hispanic

Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed.

☐ Completed less than 6 years of school   ☐ High school graduation   ☐ Some graduate study
☐ Completed 7th through 9th grade   ☐ Some college or technical school ☐ Graduate degree
☐ Completed 10th or 11th grade   ☐ College graduate   ☐ Other _____

Please indicate the amount of education you have in the child care field.

☐ Some undergraduate coursework in child care field   ☐ Some graduate coursework in child care field
☐ Bachelor's degree in child care field   ☐ Graduate degree in child care field
☐ Other child care credentials/certifications _____

Please indicate your years of child care experiences as a professional at the center? _____

Please indicate your total years of child care experience as a professional including this center and other places of employment. _____

Currently, how many hours per week do you usually work at the center? _____

What best describes your primary role at the center?

☐ Teacher or aide for infants   ☐ Teacher or aide for school age children
☐ Teacher or aide for toddlers (1-2 years)   ☐ Administrator
☐ Teacher or aide for preschoolers (3-4 years) ☐ Multiple roles. Please explain _____
☐ Teacher or aide for 4K program

Do you have a child/children attending the center?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

How many children? _____   **Ages of children:** _____