Assessing the Impact of Child Care Centers on Families

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

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

Please rate each of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Don't Know/ Doesn't Apply</th>
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- 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 your family
- 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 you about your child’s development
- responds appropriately to injuries that occur at the center
- provides a safe environment for your child

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

Please rate each of the following:

<table>
<thead>
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- provides you with information about what is happening at the center
- provides you with information about what is happening in the classroom
- provides opportunities for you to be involved in the classroom
- keeps in touch with you about your child’s development
- gives attention to your child’s individual needs
- works hand-in-hand with you to deal with problems that may arise
- offers frequent opportunities for parents to interact informally with other parents
- involves your immediate and extended family members in supporting your child
- facilitates successful transitions for you and your child (e.g., drop-off and pick-up)
- schedules teachers’ time to maximize face-to-face communication with you
- works with you to schedule mutually agreeable times for non-emergency communication
- makes you feel welcome and comfortable

(Continued on back)
Considering your experience at the child care center, how supportive is the center of different families?

Please rate each of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Don’t Know/ Doesn’t Apply</th>
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- respects families from various backgrounds (e.g., racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, geographic, etc.)
- respects my ability as a 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.

Think about your own family. Please indicate how likely YOU would be to USE each of the following. 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).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Very Likely</th>
<th>Somewhat Likely</th>
<th>Not Very Likely</th>
<th>Already Exists</th>
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- 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, for 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 your life as a family?

Please rate the following items 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”:

<table>
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- coordinates with other services that your family uses (e.g., in-school therapies, after school activities, summer programs)
- connects your family 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 informal opportunities to strengthen parenting skills
- provides formal opportunities to strengthen parenting skills
- offers programs for families on ways you can support your 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

Are there other ways that the center could help to support your family?

Are there ways that you could help support the center?

(Continued on back)
Family Background
To better understand how child care centers support families, it will help us to know what kinds of families have participated in the study. Please provide the following information about your family. Do not include your name on the sheet.

What is your relationship to the child/children in the center?
- Mother
- Father
- Stepmother
- Stepfather
- Grandmother
- Grandfather
- Foster mother
- Foster father
- Adoptive mother
- Adoptive father
- Adult female friend
- Adult male friend
- Sister
- Brother
- Adult female friend
- Adult male friend
- Other

How many children do you have? _______ What are their ages? _________________________

How many children do you have in the center? ________________

What are the ages of your children in the center? _________________________

How many children of each gender do you have in the center? ______ Male ______ Female

How long has your child (children) been in the center? _________________________

Which of the following best describes the primary living arrangements of the child (children) in the center? Child lives with . . .
- Two parents (biological)
- Two parents (adoptive)
- Mother and stepfather
- Father and stepmother
- With parent and another adult (nonrelative)
- With mother only
- With father only
- Part of the time with mother, part of the time with father (shared custody)
- With a relative (aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc.)
- Group home or foster home

What is your age? ________

What is your gender?  □ Female  □ Male

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 __________________________
- Hispanic

(Continued on next page)
If you live with a spouse/partner, to what racial or ethnic group does your spouse/partner belong?

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native  ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
☐ Asian  ☐ White (not Hispanic)
☐ Black or African American  ☐ Other ________________________________
☐ Hispanic

Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed.

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

If you live with a spouse/partner, please indicate the highest level of education completed by your spouse/partner.

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

Currently, how many hours per week do you usually work for pay? Please include all hours, whether you work for an employer and/or are self-employed.

_________ Hour(s)

If you live with a spouse/partner, how many hours a week is your spouse/partner currently working for pay? Please include all hours, whether he/she works for an employer and/or is self-employed.

_________ Hour(s)

What is your marital status?

☐ Never married  ☐ Married and widowed
☐ Married, never divorced or separated (year of marriage ____ )  ☐ Divorced and not remarried
☐ Living with a partner, not married  ☐ Divorced and remarried
☐ Married, currently separated  ☐ Other ________________________________

Does your child have any special needs? (check all that apply)

☐ Dietary  ☐ Medications
☐ Therapy  ☐ Cognitive
☐ Physical  ☐ Emotional
☐ Other

This checklist was developed by Karen Bogenschneider, Professor and UW-Extension Family Policy Specialist; Olivia Little, Project Assistant, UW-Madison; Kathy Hetzel, Dodge County UW-Extension Family Living Educator; and Patti Herman, Columbia County UW-Extension Family Living Educator.