

Questions for the Director/Principal

If you direct more than one center/school, please complete these questions thinking only about the center/school where the teacher who will complete the remainder of the survey teaches.

1. About how many children of any age attend your center/school? _____
2. About how many children at your center/school are:
_____ a. infants or toddlers (under 3 years of age)?
_____ b. preschoolers (3-5 years, not including kindergarten)?
_____ c. school age (grades K-12)?
3. How many groups/classes are there in your center/school for preschoolers (3-5 year olds, not including kindergarten)?

4. Check the days that your center/school is open? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
 Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
5. What time does your center/school open for the day? _____ AM / PM
close for the day? _____ AM / PM
6. Which of the following best describes your center/school? (CHECK ONE)
 1. Head Start operated by a public school
 2. Head Start operated by a non-profit agency
 3. public school
 4. other public agency (for example, operated by a public college/university; public hospital)
 5. affiliated with a church or synagogue
 6. independent, non-profit
 7. independent, for-profit
 8. part of a for-profit local/regional chain or system
 9. part of a national for-profit chain or system
7. We consider a teacher to be the person with primary responsibility for a group of children. There may be more than one teacher in a group (co-teachers), but teacher to us does not include assistant teachers, aides, floaters or others who work under the direction of the primary teacher. Using this definition of teacher, how many teachers do you have in your center/school who teach a group of children made up of children 3-, 4- or 5 years of age but are NOT kindergarten teachers?
_____ (number of teachers)

Please ask one of your preschool teachers to complete the remainder of this survey. Please select a teacher of 3, 4, or 5 year olds who you feel is best qualified to answer questions about what is good for young children, what they actually do in their classrooms, and what barriers they face as they try to do what is best for children. **Do not complete the remainder of the survey yourself – even if you are a preschool teacher**, unless you are the only preschool teacher at your center/school. It is very important that a person other than the director complete the remainder of the survey. Remember, by returning the questionnaire, your center/school will be entered in a drawing for a \$200 gift certificate for educational materials.

Thank you for your time!

Questions for a Preschool Teacher

(a teacher of 3-5 year olds, not kindergarten)

Dear Teacher:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in helping us to better understand best practices for working with preschoolers. Your director/principal should have completed the questions on the inside front cover. Please complete the remainder of the survey and return it in the envelope provided. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential. **Please do not complete this portion if you are the director**, unless there are no other preschool teachers in your center/school. Remember, by returning the questionnaire, your center/school will be entered in a drawing for a \$200 gift certificate for educational materials.

If you teach/care for more than one group/class, please answer all questions thinking about only your morning group or the group/class you spend the most time with.

Your beliefs and practices

1. At your job, how important is it to you to...	not at all important		somewhat important		very important	does not apply
a) provide a warm and loving environment for children?	1	2	3	4	5	
b) provide care for children so parents can work?	1	2	3	4	5	
c) prepare children for school?	1	2	3	4	5	
d) help disadvantaged children?	1	2	3	4	5	none present
e) teach children appreciation of their culture?	1	2	3	4	5	
f) provide religious instruction?	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
g) include children with special needs?	1	2	3	4	5	none present

2. Have you received as much training in early childhood as you would like? No Yes

3. IF NO on 2, please rate how much the following have stopped you from getting more training.	never	rarely	sometimes	usually	always
a) There is no training available.	1	2	3	4	5
b) It is too expensive and my center/school does not pay for it.	1	2	3	4	5
c) It is held during the day and I can't get off work.	1	2	3	4	5
d) It is held during the evening and I have a family to care for.	1	2	3	4	5
e) It is too far away from my work or home.	1	2	3	4	5

4. Based on the content and format of the workshops, conferences, or staff training activities you have attended in the last six months, how likely are you to change what you do in your work? (CIRCLE ONE)

not at all likely to change		somewhat likely to change		very likely to change	no training in last 6 months
1	2	3	4	5	9

5. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	strongly disagree	disagree	neither	agree	strongly agree
a) I see additional training as a low priority.	1	2	3	4	5
b) I wish there were more early childhood training opportunities available to me.	1	2	3	4	5
c) Seeking training in one's profession is a basic part of being a true "professional."	1	2	3	4	5
d) Most training for early childhood teachers lacks relevance to their day-to-day responsibilities.	1	2	3	4	5

6. How alarmed are you when children . . .	not at all alarmed, this is normal behavior from time to time		somewhat alarmed		very alarmed, children should never behave this way
a) refuse to do what you say?	1	2	3	4	5
b) do something you told them not to do?	1	2	3	4	5
c) argue with you?	1	2	3	4	5
d) yell at you?	1	2	3	4	5
e) bother other children?	1	2	3	4	5

7. How many hours PER WEEK can children in your group watch TV/videos at your school/center? (CHECK ONE)

- (0) none
- (1) 1-2 hours per week
- (2) 3-5 hours per week
- (3) 6-10 hours per week
- (4) 11-20 hours per week
- (5) as much TV/videos as they want

8. When children have trouble following the rules, I . . .	never	rarely	sometimes	usually	always
a) make them apologize.	1	2	3	4	5
b) scold them.	1	2	3	4	5
c) take away privileges.	1	2	3	4	5
d) explain the reasons for the rules.	1	2	3	4	5
e) spank them.	1	2	3	4	5
f) put them in "time-out".	1	2	3	4	5
g) send a note home or speak to parents.	1	2	3	4	5
h) redirect.	1	2	3	4	5
i) other: (specify: _____ _____)	1	2	3	4	5

9. Teachers may not always be able to teach/care for their groups in the way they think is best. For each practice below, please indicate how much it happens in your group, on the left side. On the right side, please indicate how often you think each practice would happen in a perfect world. You will be given a chance to describe what stops you from doing what you think is ideal later in the survey.

Please make sure you have circled a number on both sides of the grid for each item.

	What happens in my group...					What I would want in a <u>perfect world</u> ...				
	never	rarely	some-times	usually	always	never	rarely	some-times	usually	always
a) Children choose their own activities.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
b) Children are involved in instruction from the teacher.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
c) Children practice skills on worksheets.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
d) Children spend time playing.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
e) All children in the group have to take part in all activities.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
f) Children have lots of materials that they can reach and use without asking.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
g) I read to the children daily.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
h) Children have to complete all activities.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
i) Children learn through games and playing.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
j) Children are left to solve their own problems.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
k) We have a daily math experience.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
l) Children have time for gross motor activity (like running and jumping) every morning and afternoon.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
m) Children have time to be alone when they want it.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
n) Children are involved in group lessons.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
o) Children are taught their letters.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
p) We have a daily science experience.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
q) Children get prizes for good behavior and good work.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
r) Children have to finish an activity on time.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
s) We have a daily music activity.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
t) Children play with blocks.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
u) Children are encouraged to sit still.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

Questions about you

15. Your age: _____ years

16. Your gender: ___ female ___ male

17. Your race/ethnicity (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- ____ 1. American Indian or Native Alaskan American
____ 2. Asian or Pacific Islander
____ 3. Black or African American
____ 4. Hispanic or Latino
____ 5. White
____ 6. Other:

18. How many hours do you usually work at this center/school each week? _____ hours per week

19. How long have you worked in your current job at this center? _____ years _____ months

20. What is your salary in dollars per hour? \$_____ per hour

21. How far did you go in school? (CHECK HIGHEST LEVEL REACHED ONLY)

- ___ 1. 8th grade or less
___ 2. 9th, 10th or 11th grade
___ 3. High school diploma or GED
___ 4. Vocational training
___ 5. Some college
___ 6. Associates (AA) or 2 year college degree
___ 7. Bachelors or 4 year college degree
___ 8. Advanced degree (Masters, Doctorate)

22. What is your training in early childhood? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ___ 1. No specialized training
___ 2. Workshops
___ 3. Some college courses, but no degree
___ 4. CDA (Child Development Associate)
___ 5. AA (Associate Degree)
___ 6. Working on Bachelors
___ 7. BA/BS (Bachelors)
___ 8. Advanced degree

23. Do you belong to a professional organization? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ____ 1. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
____ 2. A Worthy Wage group (like NCECW)
____ 3. A union (like NEA, AFT or other)
____ 4. National Head Start Association
____ 5. National Child Care Association
____ 6. A state early childhood association
____ 7. A local early childhood association
____ 8. Other (which?)
____ 9. None

24. What is/are your position(s) at the school/center? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ____ 1. Preschool teacher, with primary responsibility for a group
____ 2. Substitute preschool teacher or floater
____ 3. Director/principal
____ 4. Owner

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your beliefs, your practices, or barriers you experience in trying to do what is best for children? Any additional comments?

Thank you!

Your contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated. Please return this survey in the envelope provided. If you would like a summary of results, please print your name and address on the back of the return envelope (NOT on this questionnaire). We will see that you get it.

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