

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

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AGUMCC

Parent Fall Survey 2012 Results

The "Fall Survey" findings showed that the families were 80% very satisfied and 20% satisfied with the overall quality of the program. 100% of the families felt that their child was well cared for and that their child was happy and enjoyed participating in the program. In addition, 100% of the families received information from the program about their child's development, daily activities, and strategies or technique for discipline. Here are some personal comments written by families on the survey on how the program met their family's needs: *"I love how caring the teachers are to the children."* *"Very happy with our current experience."* *"We are extremely happy with AGUMCC. A wonderful program and wonderful teachers."* *"You all are doing a fantastic job and we are very satisfied."* *"A great program and great leadership."* *"Thank you for all you do."* *"I like that the school uses "Positive Discipline" and that the teachers are very compassionate on how they deal with the children."*

According to the survey, the two most popular reasons why families have chosen our program were for the age-appropriate curriculum and socialization for their children. Not all of the families that turned in the survey participated in Parent/Teacher Conferences. However, of those who did attend, then found their conferences to be informative and their child's development was discussed.

There were some new additions to the survey. The first one was the section regarding the National Association for the Education of Young Children Self Study Accreditation project that our school is participating in. 63% of the families are aware of the school's participation, but 32% are not. However, only 58% would like more information about Accreditation. NAEYC Accreditation is a hallmark of quality. To learn more info about NAEYC Accreditation see <http://www.naeyc.org/academy/interested/whyaccreditation>.

The second new question was: When would be a better time to have informational meetings, parent education meetings/trainings? The number one answer was in the evening at 7:00 pm.

The third new question was: Do you find the Children's Center Chronicle informative? 100% of the parents said yes. When asking, "What is your favorite part of the Children's Center Chronicle some of the parents gave the following answers. "Updates from the teachers and what is happening in the classrooms." "Tips on positive discipline." "Important dates to remember." Also, parents commented that they like the "Early Years Article" that is attached to the newsletter.

There were three areas that we can improve our program: parent involvement, end the partial day program at the same time for toddlers and preschoolers, and more flexible drop off and pick up times. Parent involvement is the key to the success of our program. According to the survey regarding "Parent Volunteer Opportunities" half of the parents would like to help with classroom projects and 70% would rather help outside the classroom. A comment written from a parent was, *"I hope that in the future, more parents will participate at the school activities. It's very important to be involved and show AGUMCC support."* There are twelve activities throughout the year. There are four socials, four community events, and four fundraising events. All the activities include a spark of FUN while providing opportunities to build relationships and a strong community within our program. Again, this year, the most popular activity was the Holiday Program in December. The second runner-up was the Family Fun Day in October, along with the two Regatta events in January and February. According to the survey, 70% want to help with fundraisers. That is up more than 5% from last year. YEAH!! Remember many hands make the work light. Fundraisers help raise money for things the school

needs. It provides opportunities for families to meet one another and keep tuition costs down. The fall fundraiser helps us purchase new material and supplies. There are many opportunities for families to be involved. The winter fundraisers help the staff to attend the annual California Association for the Education of Young Children's conference. Each year the teachers return from conference inspired, refreshed, and better teachers. The Fall Family Fun Day fundraiser raises money for the school to buy needed supplies for the classrooms. Other ways that families can help is by joining EScrip or recycling ink cartridges. EScrip is a program where you as a consumer; register your Vons, Macy, Visa, or MasterCard. When you use your registered card, EScrip will give the school \$2.00 for every \$100 you spend. When you recycle your ink cartridges with the school, the teacher get \$2.00 for every one they turn into Staples or Office Max. We are also in need of a Parent Representative to serve on the AGUMCC Board. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The Open Session meets for approximately 30 minutes. The parent is invited to share ideas in regards to what they feel is important to the parents.

Second suggestion that was written to help us improve was: *"It would be nice if the toddler and preschool ended at the same time."* The pick up times have been designed to meet the needs of the children and the program. Toddlers tend to be tired earlier in the day. In the past, we have allowed toddlers to be picked up after lunch, but we found that it became disruptive to the already tired toddler group and delayed naptime as a whole.

The third suggestion was: *"More flexible drop off and pick up times."* Drop off times for the morning are from 7:30-8:30 for Early Birds and 8:30-9:00 am for Partial Day and Full Day program children. We do discourage late drop off so that transitions of separation and saying "Good Bye" can occur before 9:00 am. Pick up time for the toddler can occur from 11:30-12:00. We do offer a 5-minute grace period for pick up times which are 12:00 noon for toddlers, 1:00 pm for preschoolers, 3:30 for full day program children, and 5:30 for extended stay children. However, it is important to synchronize your watches. When a parent is more than five minutes late, he or she can receive a late fee, which is \$1.00 for every minute late. OUCH! As a parent myself, I too have had to pay a late pick up fee and understand that things do come up that disrupt our own schedule. Prompt pick ups help smooth the transition for the children and allows the staff to continue with their other responsibilities.

The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center Board would like to thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. The findings are beneficial and very important in providing information we need to improve our program. Last year our goal was to improve our parent and teacher communication. This year our family surveyed showed that 93% were very satisfied with how the staff is communicating. That is a wonderful improvement. Our doors are always open. It can be challenging for the teachers and parents to be connected because of busy schedules. The best time for the teachers and parents to communicate is during drop off or pick up. If this does not work, call the classroom or leave a note for the teacher on the "Parent Communication Board" indicating when and how would be a good time for the teacher to reach you. To find out about future events or activities that will be coming up this next school year, there are several places to look: the Year at a Glance, the monthly Children's Center Chronicle, the Parent Communication Board in the entrance way or your child's classroom, and the web site at www.worshipweekly.com and the link is Children's Center. We look forward to a fun and exciting new school year nurturing the development of children and fostering new friendships between our children, families, and staff.

Sincerely,
Maddy Quaglino, AGUMCC Director