

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

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AGUMCC

Parent Fall Survey 2014 Results

The "Fall Survey" findings showed that the families were 67% very satisfied and 33% 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, 95% of the families received information from the program about their child's development, 63% received information about the daily activities, and 70% received information about strategies for discipline. Here are some personal comments written by families on the survey on how the program met their family's needs: *"I love the notes that we get about the day. It is a highlight of my evening."* *"Great program, we are very happy! Wonderful staff."* *"It has been a great experience for our family."* *"We like the Earlier Bird Drop off. It is a great benefit."* *"My son is very happy."*

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. 70% of our families chose our program because of our low ratio; 1:4 in the toddler program and 1:6 in the preschool program. Also 83% of the families that turned in the survey participated in their child's Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences. Of those, they found the conferences to be informative and their child's development was discussed and goals were set for the spring.

The survey showed that only 63% of families knew that our school is participating in National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Self Study Accreditation project. NAEYC Accreditation is a hallmark of quality. To learn more info about NAEYC Accreditation see <http://www.naeyc.org/academy/interested/whyaccreditation>.

When asked, "When would be a better time to have informational meetings, parent education meetings/trainings?" The number one answer was in the evening.

When asked, "Do you find the Children's Center Chronicle informative? 100% of the parents said, "Yes." When asked, "What is your favorite part of the Children's Center Chronicle?" some of the parents gave the following answers. "The classroom notes." "Maddy's Message." "Monthly Lesson Topic" and "Updates on classroom activities." In addition, 95% of the families said the best way they like to receive information is through emails.

This year there were two areas where our program could improve: the first area was Parent Involvement and second was the Staff Communicates with the Families. Parent involvement is the key to the success of our program. Only 50% of the families were very satisfied and 33% were satisfied with parent involvement. According to the survey, 83% of the parents would like to help outside the classroom with classroom projects and 63 % would like to help inside the classroom. 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. According to the survey, 54% would to help Socials and Fundraising Events. That is down 9% from last year. Remember many hands make the work light. Fundraisers help raise money for materials and supplies for the classrooms and office. It also provides opportunities for families to meet one another and keep tuition costs down.

Other ways that families can be involved is by joining EScrip, or participating in Labels for Education, or recycling ink cartridges. EScrip is a program where you, as a consumer, can register your Vons, Macy, Visa, or MasterCard. Then when you use your registered card, EScrip will give the school \$2.00 for every \$100 you spend. You can find the "Labels for Education" items that you purchase at the grocery store: Campbell's, Swanson's, Pepperidge Farms, Glad, Bic, Dannon, Post Cereals, Pops Secrets. There is a box next to the Sign In/Out table for you to

turn in “Labels for Education”. The schools can use the points to purchase items from a selected catalog. When you recycle your ink cartridges with the school, the teacher can use them like cash at Office Max. For every ink cartridge you turn in that equals \$2.00 to purchase paper or supplies.

The winter fundraisers help the staff to attend the annual California Association for the Education of Young Children’s conference. Continued education is very important for the success of our school. Each year the teachers return from conference inspired, refreshed, and revitalized. The surveyed showed that 66% were very satisfied and 34% were satisfied with how the staff interact with the children. Through continued education our staff strives to provide the best of care that maintains high standards of age appropriate activities and interactions with the children. The foundation and success to a child’s learning is when a teacher provides a sense of security that nurtures and values each child while fostering individualized relationships.

The second area our program can improve is regarding Parent and Teacher Communication. Communication is very important and a key cornerstone for the success of our program. This year the surveyed showed that 66% were very satisfied and 34% were satisfied with how the staff communicates with the families. 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, you can call the classroom, leave a note for your child’s teacher on the “Parent Communication Board”, or send an email directly to your teacher. Please indicate when and how would be a good time to reach you.

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. 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