

Parent interview September 1997
Chicago Public Schools Early Childhood Programs

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from the University of Wisconsin Letters and Science Survey Center. May I speak to (parent/guardians_ full name)? The Chicago Public School system has asked us to conduct a survey of parents guardians opinions about their local school. For your assistance in answering these questions, we will be sending you a check for \$10.00. The questions I will ask concern you and your child. The interview will last from 20-30 minutes. Information you provide will help us better serve children and families in the Chicago Public Schools. All information you provide will remain completely confidential. You may stop participating at any time. If there are any questions you would prefer not to answer, just tell me and we can skip them. I will be asking you to respond to questions regarding the Chicago Public Schools, your education and your child's school experience and your child's participation in early childhood programs. Remember to answer the question only for insert child's name.

1. What is your relationship to this child?
(1) Mother Grandmother; Aunt (3) Female other, specify relation ____
(2) Father Uncle (4) Male other, specify relation ____ .

- 2a. Has there ever been a period of time longer than 6 months when your child did not live with you?
Yes No
- b. For how many years did your child not live with you?

3. Looking back, how satisfied are you with the education received by your child during the following school years? Would you say that you are: (1) Very satisfied; (2) Somewhat satisfied; (3) Somewhat unsatisfied; or (4) Very unsatisfied with the education your child received in:

Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat unsatisfied Very unsatisfied NA
- a. Preschool?
- b. How about kindergarten?
- c. How about 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade?
- d. How about elementary school?
- e. How about high school (so far)?

- 4a. Looking back, when this child was in preschool or preschool age, did he or she live with both parents?
Yes No
- b. Currently, does your child live with both parents? Yes No

5. Including Kindergarten, how many schools has this child attended?

6. How many times have you and your child moved to another home since this child has been in kindergarten?
none; 1 time; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 10-13

7. If your child attended a preschool, was it a Child Parent Center?
Yes, list No, list Child did not attend preschool

CHILD PARENT CENTER QUESTIONS

The next few questions are about you and your child's participation in early childhood education. The first question is:

- 8a. Think back to when your child started preschool or was preschool age, what was your employment status?
(1) Employed full-time (2) Employed part-time
(3) Disabled (4) Unemployed
(5) Retired (6) Full-time homemaker
(7) Other

- b. When your child started preschool or was preschool age, what was your highest level of education?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| (1) Elementary school | (2) Some high school |
| (3) High school diploma | (4) GED |
| (5) Vocational or trade school | (6) Some college |
| (7) Associate's Degree | (8) Bachelor's Degree (4 yr college degree) |
| (9) Master's degree | (10) Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent |
9. How often did you participate in your child's school when your child was in preschool or kindergarten?
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Weekly or more | (2) Two or three times a month |
| (3) Once a month | (4) Less than once a month |
| (5) Did not participate | (6) Do not remember |
10. Did you participate in any of the following school activities when your child was in preschool or kindergarten?
- | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | If yes, rating: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|-----|----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|
- I dropped off/picked up my child
 - Attended programs in the parent resource room
 - Attended school meetings
 - Attended school assemblies
 - Went on class field trips
 - Volunteered in classroom (helped children or teacher)
 - Received home visit
 - Had a parent teacher conference

If #7 is yes - read questions 11-20

11. How satisfied were you OVERALL with the CPC program your child attended?
- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Very satisfied | (2) Somewhat satisfied |
| (3) Somewhat dissatisfied | (4) Very dissatisfied |
- Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat unsatisfied Very unsatisfied
- With the education program (offered to your child)
 - With the parent program
12. Did you feel welcome in the center? Yes No
- 13a. When your child attended preschool, did you develop a close relationship with anyone at the CPC?
- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
- b. If yes, with whom?
14. Overall, how satisfied were you with your participation in the CPC program for you as a parent ?
- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| (1) Very satisfied | (2) Somewhat satisfied |
| (3) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | (4) Not very satisfied |
| (5) Not at all satisfied | |
15. Overall, how satisfied are you with the CPC program for your child's education?
- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| (1) Very satisfied | (2) Somewhat satisfied |
| (3) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | (4) Not very satisfied |
| (5) Not at all satisfied | |
16. Did your participation in the CPC program help you to feel more involved in your community? Would you say:
- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) Yes, very involved | (2) Yes, somewhat involved | (3) No, not very involved |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
- 17a. How did the CPC program affect your career development? Would you say it has had:
- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| (1) A large effect | (2) Some effect |
| (3) Not much effect | (4) No effect at all on your career development? |

17b. How much did the CPC program affect your attitudes toward education? Would you say it has had:

- (1) A large effect
- (2) Some effect
- (3) Not much effect
- (4) No effect at all

18a. Were you ever employed in the CPC? Yes No

b. If yes, what was your job? (1) aide (2) clerk (3) teacher (4) other, please list:

19. How many of your children attended a CPC program?

20. Did the CPC program benefit children in your family who did not participate in the CPC?

Yes No No other children

SCHOOL QUESTIONS:

21. Overall, how satisfied are you with how ____ has done in school?

- (1) Very satisfied
- (2) Somewhat satisfied
- (3) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (4) Very dissatisfied

21a. How often did you participate in your child's school while they were in grades 1,2 and 3?

- (1) weekly or more
- (2) two or three times a month
- (3) once a month
- (4) less than once a month
- (5) never
- (6) Do not remember

b. How often did you participate in your child's school while they were in grades 4-8?

- (1) weekly or more
- (2) two or three times a month
- (3) once a month
- (4) less than once a month
- (5) never
- (6) Do not remember

22a. Please tell me which of the following prevented you from participating in activities at your child's school ?

- ____ lack of child care
- ____ your school or training schedule
- ____ don't know others at school
- ____ health problems
- ____ language barrier
- ____ safety concerns
- ____ disability
- ____ work schedule
- ____ lack of transportation
- ____ feel uncomfortable at school
- ____ school hasn't provided enough opportunities
- ____ previous negative experiences with schools
- ____ other: _____

For the following statements, please tell us if you (1) never, (2)sometimes, (3)often, or (4)always do the following.

How often do you

Never Sometimes Often Always

- 23. Make sure your child does his/her homework
- 24. Ask your child questions about school
- 25. Pick up your child's report card at school
- 26. Limit the number of hours your child watches TV
- 27. Know where your child is?
- 28. Set rules about the time your child has to be home at night?
- 29. Assign your child regular chores?
- 30. Allow your child influence over family decisions that affect him/her?
- 31. Know who your child's friends are?
- 32. Talk to teacher about your child's progress
- 33. Attend student performances, programs or events
- 34. Take family trips
- 35. Attend church or religious events

36. Attend a community organization meeting or political meeting
37. What are the chances that you will:
- | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|
| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|
- further your education or training in the next 10 yrs
 - Ten yrs from now have a job that pays well
 - In 10 yrs you will have a happy family life
 - stay in good health most of the time

38. Taking all things together, on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is very poor and 10 is absolutely perfect, how would you describe: Very poor Perfect

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| a. Your relationship with (child)? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
- b. Your relationship with your 20% child's father
no contact; deceased

39. As things stand now, how far in school do you **think** your child will probably get?
- Some high school
 - High school graduation only
 - Finish vocational or trade school
 - 1 or 2 years of college
 - Finish college (4-year degree)
 - Master's degree
 - Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent

40. How far in school would you **like** your child to go?
- Some high school
 - High school graduation only
 - Finish vocational or trade school
 - 1 or 2 years of college
 - Finish college (4-year degree)
 - Master's degree
 - Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent

41. How much influence do you have on your child's school success? Would you say you have:
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) A lot of influence | (2) Some influence |
| (3) Not much influence | (4) No influence at all |

42. All of us have problems. In the last year, did you and your child have the following problems?

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
- Paying rent or mortgage
 - Paying gas, electric or medical bills
 - Having enough money for new clothes
 - Finding a good job
 - Finding a safe place to live
 - Finding dependable transportation
 - Getting dental care for you and your child
 - Getting medical care for you and your child at your neighborhood clinic
 - Getting medical care for you and you child in a hospital
 - Getting good assistance from social services
 - Getting your child to try hard in school

Now I am going to read some statements that might describe a person's opinion. Please tell me whether you (1) strongly agree, (2) agree, (3) disagree or (4) strongly disagree with each statement.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

- I look forward to the future
- I feel down about life
- School is important for getting a good job
- All people should have at least a high school education
- My child's school does a good job of informing me

- about school events
- 48. I have telephoned or talked to other parents about school events
- 49. I feel safe in my neighborhood
- 50. I feel safe in my home
- 51. I feel my child is safe going to and coming home from school

We would now like to learn more about the people and services in your neighborhood. For the following statements please let me know which answer best describes your neighborhood.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|
- 52.a. Your neighbors have similar views about how to raise children.
 - b. This is a close-knit neighborhood.
 - c. There are a lot of adults around here that your children can look up to
 - d. You can count on people in the neighborhood to let you know about opportunities for your kids.
 - e. Schools are so bad around here, you can't blame students for not attending school.
 - f. Unless you know the right people, you can't get services in this neighborhood.
 - g. If you want decent health and social services for your children, you can't find them around here.
 - h. Getting help when your children need it always takes more time and energy than you seem to have.

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|--------|-----|----------|
| | Very High | High | Middle | Low | Very Low |
|--|-----------|------|--------|-----|----------|
- 53. In your neighborhood, what are students chances of:
 - a. Graduating from high school?
 - b. Completing college?
 - c. Finding a stable, well-paying job when adults?
 - d. Entering the military?

- | | | | |
|--|--------|------|-------|
| | Better | Same | Worse |
|--|--------|------|-------|
- 54. Think about how your neighborhood compares to other neighborhoods. Is your neighborhood better, worse, or the same as other neighborhoods with respect to:
 - a. Safety?
 - b. Neighbors helping each other out?
 - c. Having more involved parents?
 - d. As a place to live?

We are almost done, we just have some background questions left.

- 60. In what year were you born?
- 61a. Have you lived at your address 2 or more years? Yes No
- b. How long have you lived at your present address? ____ Years ____ Months
- 62. Did you attend the Chicago public schools? Yes No
- 63a. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

(1) Elementary school	(2) Some high school
(3) High school diploma	(4) GED
(5) Vocational or trade school	(6) Some college
(7) Associate's Degree	(8) Bachelor's Degree (4 yr college degree)
(9) Master's degree	(10) Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent

b. How old were you when you left school or completed your education?

64a. Have you taken classes beyond high school (This might involve taking classes at a vocational, technical, or trade school, a 2 year junior college, a 4 year college, or a professional school)?

Yes No

b. If yes, what was the name of the school? _____

65. Currently, what is your employment status?

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Employed full-time | (2) Employed part-time |
| (3) Disabled | (4) Unemployed |
| (5) Retired | (6) Full-time homemaker |

66. Presently, how many people live in your home (or apartment)?

_____ Female adults
_____ Male adults
_____ Children under 18 years old

67. Looking back, how would you improve the CPC program?

68. Looking back, how would you improve the early childhood education programs in Chicago?

69. What would you recommend to improve the education in the Chicago Public Schools?