

# Parent and Family Educator Needs - Survey Results

## I. Outreach, Recruiting and Engaging Families in ECFE

### A. Outreach and Marketing

1. Recruitment of families
2. Getting parents registered for ECFE - struggle to get groups together for ECFE classes with parent ed
3. Better outreach to get additional families into our classes.
4. Outreach-strategies for recruiting and engaging new families
5. MommyCon movement - using their marketing strategies for ECFE!
6. Marketing the value of parent education to parents? Why should they get involved?
7. Describing parent education in a way that sounds intriguing/inviting/worthwhile for parents.

### B. Specific Groups/Populations

1. Recruiting and involving families with children with high risk factors
2. Reaching at-risk families and those with diverse backgrounds – what are we doing or not doing that keeps them from coming or continuing?
3. Engaging millennials - helping them see the value of ECFE amidst attending dance, hockey, etc. with their young children
4. Working with millennials
5. Engaging the fathers in the parenting group. Differences in parenting styles and learning styles between moms and dads

### C. Technology

1. How to use technology to engage parents?

## II. Providing Parenting Education to Meet the Needs of 21st Century Families

### A. Meeting the Needs of Families and Adult Learners

1. How to best meet the needs of parent/adult learners?
2. Learning more about how today's parents want to learn
3. Offering the right variety of classes to meet needs of local parents
4. Offering classes during the most convenient time for families
5. Meeting needs of a variety of parents in one group - with mixed ages, lifestyles, concerns etc.

### B. Families where English is not the Primary Language

1. Working with ELL families
2. Language concerns - when there is a parent in the class who does not speak
3. Dealing with varying languages and abilities within the same group. Any recommendations for translation support?

### C. Families Dealing with Mental Health Issues

1. Strategies for working with a family/families that have either some mental health and or lower cognitive skills
2. How to balance the needs of perhaps 1 person and the other 11 people in class to make everyone's experience a valuable one?

### D. Grandparents

1. Grandparents-Supporting those that are playing a primary role in caring for their grandchildren either through custody or as child care providers.

### E. Court-Ordered Parents

1. Parent Educators responsibilities when a family is court ordered to class

### **III. Improving Our Practice and Delivery of Parenting Education**

#### **A. Increasing Our Knowledge - Staying Current with Information**

1. Staying current (e.g. how do we keep up with changing recommendations from the medical field?)
2. New trends in PE, parenting/family, etc.
3. Stay aware of all the parenting books/online information?

#### **B. Group Facilitation**

1. Update on our group facilitation skills - how to conduct groups, grab their attention, handle challenging parents
2. Improving group process skills – asking the right questions, reading groups
3. Making the most out of short parenting session times
4. New ways to present common topics
5. Learning new ways/strategies to deliver info in class

#### **C. Curricula and Lesson Plans**

1. How to take the Parent Ed framework and use it to make some practical 'lessons'.
2. Resources that others are using or that are high quality, research-based to not only inform our own practice, but also to provide to families – especially resources for low-functioning parents or non-readers.
3. Any lesson plan resources would also be great.
4. Current curriculum, DVD's to help us with our lessons.
5. How to get PE's on board to use the core curriculum framework for program consistency and alignment of adult learning.
6. Making sure curriculum requirements are current, reflect recent research and best practices
7. Paid for training on new curriculum, good websites, DVD's that we can use in our classes on topics many of us discuss.

#### **D. Assessment and Evaluation**

1. Assessing effectiveness of programming
2. How do we measure parent growth? Not just over time, but in a single parent ed session?
3. How do we develop an assessment tool?
4. How do we help parents measure their own growth?
5. What does "student engagement" look like in a parent ed discussion group?
6. How do parent educators meet the "assessment" part to the state requirements of the teacher development plans?
7. How are others using Marzano to enhance their practice? Is Marzano an appropriate staff evaluation tool for Early Childhood and Parent Ed.? Are there other tools that are more developmentally appropriate? Are there other tools that are more appropriate for adult ed/parent ed?

#### **E. Technology**

1. Parent education and technology - equipping our parent ed spaces with technology intended to support instruction/class facilitation
2. Using technology to connect with parents between sessions and for parents to connect with each other around application of parenting strategies
3. How I can best reach and provide current and reliable information to parents via the web because that is where they are at
4. Training on parenting in today's electronic age

#### **F. Specific Topics**

1. Parent Stress-Self care
2. Parents not overdoing the academic push
3. Parents understanding and appreciating diversity-prevention of bullying,
4. Parent pressure to be perfect with all of the information out there
5. Brain Development-How to simplify the topic and teach to parents “parent friendly”
6. How to help parents navigate the abundance of media influences on themselves and their children
7. Using tools to identify typical and atypical child development

## **IV. Improving the Field of Parenting Education (ECFE Enhancement Areas)**

### **A. More Professional Development Opportunities**

1. Lack of professional development
2. Have more conferences with PE's in SEVERAL ECFE's all around the metro area. We used to have them and in that way we could connect and share ideas.
3. More training opportunities in general for Parent Educators

### **B. Connect and Network with Other Parent and Family Educators**

1. Not connecting with parent educators regionally and throughout the state to network and share ideas and best practice
2. Opportunities to connect with colleagues in the field to share ideas and strategies
3. What are current issues others are dealing with? Seeing?
4. Time to network is always valued

### **C. More Parent and Family Educators are Needed**

1. we can't find parent educators
2. finding parent educators who are licensed
3. Lack of full-time opportunity with benefits
4. Making parent ed licensure more accessible - offering it at additional institutions of higher learning; alternative pathways to parent ed licensure
5. Licensure and needing more staff with Parent Ed License

### **D. Home Visiting**

1. Home visiting as a tool for parent education
2. Any home visit information would be great as well.
3. More information on what evidenced based home visiting looks like
4. Public Health has big initiatives for home visiting, how do we continue to be leaders in home visiting and gain funding for ECFE home visiting.
5. Sometimes I feel that ECFE is inferior in a school district, when we are the first building blocks of the children who will be attending K-12 schools. What parents and children are getting out of our program will help them with their future education. The parents in our classes know this, but others in the district may not.

### **E. Alignment and PreK-3rd Grade Goals**

1. Co-planning between ECFE & CE for preschool programs
2. Community Needs Assessment methods and developing plans based on information gained
3. Transition to parenthood-pre-natal parenting session ideas
4. Parent Education for elementary school parents-“What would that look like?”