

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

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AGUMCC

Parent Fall Survey 2015 Results

The "Fall Survey" findings' showed that the families were 95% very satisfied and 5% satisfied with the overall quality of the program. 100% of the families felt that their child was well cared for in the program. In addition, 95% of the families received information from the program about their child's development, 100% received information about the daily activities, and 91% 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: "Very Happy." "My child absolutely loves it and we feel confident he is well taken care of." "Staff seems on top of their game; competent and experienced." "Our son loves school, he's making lots of friends and is starting to become interested in many new things like writing, art, and singing. I'm very happy with the way things are going for him. I've also been very happy with the way the program and staff have helped accommodate our changing scheduling needs. Thank you for being wonderful!" "Thank you for loving my child."

According to the survey, the most popular reasons why families have chosen our program was for the age-appropriate curriculum for their child. 91% 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 95% 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. At the conference their child's development was discussed and goals were set for the spring.

The survey showed that only 50% of families knew that our school is participating in the 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>.

According to the survey when asked what parent's opportunities would like to participate in?" 73% of the parents said they would like to help with socials and fundraising events. That is up 19% from last year. 56% want to help outside the classroom with classroom projects and 34 % would like to help inside the classroom. When asked, "Would you like to have a Parent Group at school?" 81% said that they would not.

Fundraisers help raise money for new materials and supplies for the classrooms and office. It also provides opportunities for families to meet with one another and keep tuition costs down. 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.

Other ways that families can be involved are by joining shopping through Amazon Smiles, EScrip, or participating in Labels for Education, or recycling ink cartridges. Amazon Smiles is just like Amazon and better. When you make your purchase through Amazon Smiles 1% of your purchase price is given to your favorite non-profit. EScrip is a program where you, as a consumer, can register your 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, and 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 the conference inspired, refreshed, and revitalized. The survey showed that 83% were very satisfied and 17% 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.

When asked, "How does the program communicate with you?" The most popular answer was through email. If you are not getting emails from me, please let me know by sending me an email at agumcc@sbcglobal.net. The least favorite way to receive information was through Facebook.

Here are some suggestions made by the families of how we could improve our program. *"It would be nice if families could make up days missed."* *"It would be nice if the younger toddler group could go down for nap earlier."* *"It would be great to have organic fruits and veggies."* *"It would be nice if the calendar for the school was available on line."*

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. These suggestions will be taken to the AGUMCC Board for discussion. The suggestion to *"make up days"* is very problematic and has to do with available space and staying with our child to teacher ratio requirements. The suggestion to *"have the toddlers go down for earlier naps"* is challenging. Currently, the toddlers go down for nap at approximately 12:30 -12:45 and it is common that most children go to sleep between 12:50 pm and 1:15 pm. To arrange for younger toddlers to take an earlier nap, unfortunately, is limited by space and available staff. The suggestion to *"have organic fruits and veggies"* would be something that we could aspire to improve. Currently we have increased our snack budget to accommodate the rising food costs. Adding organic fruits and veggies to our menu will take some planning. The suggestion *"to have our school calendar available on line"* is easy a one. We do our best to have our monthly Snack and Event Calendar posted each month on our web site at www.agumcc under the link calendars. Under that same link you can find two more great resources: "Year at a Glance" and "Days Closed and Minimum Day Schedule". Other places you can look regarding future events or activities the monthly "Children's Center Chronicle", the "Parent Information Board" (in the entrance way or your child's classroom). We look forward to a fun and exciting rest of the school year nurturing the development of children and fostering new friendships between our children, families, and staff.

Sincerely,

Maddy Quaglino, AGUMCC Director

P.S Look for the Spring Survey to come out in June 2016