



CANDIDATE
EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY
LEE COUNTY

EXCEL BY 5 LEE COUNTY

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

382 surveys were received.

Some questions received multiple answers.

WHO DO YOU CONTACT WHEN YOU HAVE CONCERNS FOR YOUR CHILDREN OR NEED HELP AS A PARENT?

- **Parents or extended family (327)**
- **Doctor (149)**
- **Church (85)**
- **Friends (50)**
- **Headstart/Daycare/Preschool/School (46)**
- **Resource Center (11)**
- **Internet (6)**

Other answers : Regional Rehab, Early Intervention, Dept. of Human Services, Public Library, Translator, 4-H

WHAT PROGRAMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN RAISING YOUR CHILD?

- **Church (143)**
- **Headstart/Daycare/Preschool/Kindergarten (131)**
- **None/Don't know of any programs that have helped (86)**
- **Sports/Dance/Park and Rec/Other Extracurricular (29)**
- **WIC Nutritional Prog/Food Stamps/TANF/Helping Hands (14)**
- **Health Dept./Early Intervention (14)**
- **Public Library (11)**
- **Pediatrician (9)**
- **Resource Center (6) (including parent education/nutrition programs)**
- **Boys and Girls Club (6)**

Other answers: Medicaid, Child Care Certificates, Salvation Army, Regional Rehab, Healthworks, Longtown Therapy, Down Syndrome Society, Health Link, Region III



WHAT DO YOU FIND TO BE THE HARDEST PART OF RAISING A CHILD IN THIS COMMUNITY?

Negative influence of other children not raised with same morals/values	57
Lack of affordable afterschool programs/summer programs/extracurricular activities - particularly in the county, lack of arts programs, need all day programs for working parents	42
Lack of financial resources/good jobs	37
Ensuring safety from violence or drugs	33
Being a single parent	26
Nothing - one participant stated that we have a community that supports healthy and positive living and we are blessed	25
Lack of free events, particularly educational	23

WHAT DO YOU FIND TO BE THE HARDEST PART OF RAISING A CHILD IN THIS COMMUNITY? (CONT'D)

Balancing work, activities and family	21
Lack of community support	19
Giving them skills to succeed/knowing what to teach	14
No relatives close by to help	13
Finding affordable/quality daycare	12
Dealing with behavior/discipline issues	10
Health issues/disabilities/identifying disabilities early, finding care for disabled children	9
No public pre-K in the county	6
Language barrier	4
Other answers: no resources within walking distance, no access to internet, child care for nights/weekends/illness, no Christian based learning programs, no museums, lack of resource materials	

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BIGGEST NEEDS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES?

Early childhood education/school readiness	65
More family involvement/quality family time	63
Love/security/stable home (preferably with male and female role models)	58
More educational activities	48
Basic needs – food/clothing/shelter	30
Church	29
Support system/support groups	26
Parent involvement, including parents who have been through training	24
Good nutrition/medical care	23
Affordable quality daycare	19



WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BIGGEST NEEDS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES? (CONT'D)

More income and better jobs for parents	19
Increased communication between parents/caregivers/schools/community	18
More positive programs/positive influences/positive role models	14
More resources	12
Physical activity	12
Mentors for kids with single parents	7
Other answers: Community coming together, discipline, better library support, speech therapy, emergency childcare, ESL instruction, more indoor activities, safe place to play, access to computers, playgroups	



HOW COULD THE COMMUNITY WORK BETTER TO SUPPORT FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN?

More activities that parents and children can do together	80
Additional education for children and parents	64
Reach out to parents and provide parent support	42
More affordable after school/summer programs and child care options	36
Help with basic needs(food, clothing, shelter)	22
More parks with activities for kids 0-5	18
More information/coordination between agencies re: resources	16
More community/resource centers/safe places to play and learn	18
Show respect to all families and encourage good values	13
Other answers: Parent training, enhance library, free childcare for low income, more safety measures at schools/events/businesses, identify at-risk children early, sidewalks, bus services, monthly newsletter, arts and music programs	

WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT A RESOURCE CENTER?

After 5 PM/Evenings	229
Afternoon	127
Morning	92
Saturdays	57
Doesn't matter	46

DOES A LACK OF TRANSPORTATION KEEP YOU FROM USING AVAILABLE RESOURCES OR FACILITIES?

No	341
Yes	41
Comments: Gas cost affects this, several families with only one car or unreliable car	



COMPOSITION OF SURVEYED POPULATION

Parents with kids:	#	%
Attending child care centers	140	28%
Attending public kindergarten	172	34%
Attending ECEC pre-k program	72	14%
Attending Head Start	44	9%
Attending private/church preschool program	31	6%
Staying at home with family member or unlicensed home provider	46	9%
Percentages:		
City		45%
County		55%

SURVEY SUMMARY FOR LEE COUNTY

- Parents of young children rely mainly on family members and pediatricians to give them advice about their kids.
- The church plays a major role in the lives of families with young children.
- Parents have concerns about their children being around other kids who don't have the same morals and values.
- Working parents have trouble finding affordable childcare and extracurricular activities; there aren't as many programs available in the county.
- Parents need to spend time working, reading, and playing with their young children.
- Young children need some form of early childhood education, and their caregivers need to make sure they are prepared for kindergarten.
- The community needs to provide family-friendly, educational activities for parents and children to do together.





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EXCEL BY 5 LEE COUNTY

CHILD CARE CENTER SURVEY RESULTS

18 surveys received, only 16 full-time centers

CDA/AA/College – 13 over 40%

Extra contact hours – 6 over 40%

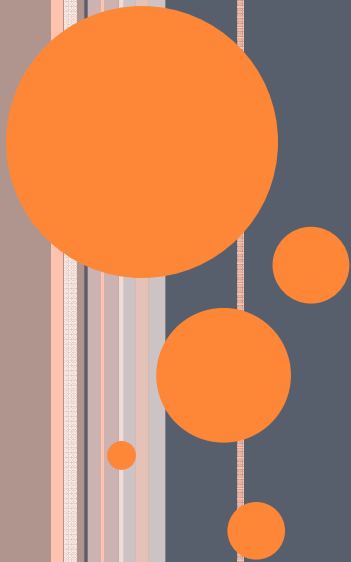
CHILD CARE CENTERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED FORMS AS OF 2/14/13

- ❖ Calvary Baptist Preschool and Kindergarten (not full-time), Tupelo
- ❖ Color My World, Tupelo
- ❖ E.B. Flynn Learning Center, Tupelo
- ❖ God's Creation Learning Center, Verona
- ❖ Harrisburg Day School, Tupelo
- ❖ Haven Acres Head Start, Tupelo
- ❖ Kid's Landing Child Care and Learning Center, Tupelo
- ❖ Kids World, Saltillo
- ❖ Mooreville Head Start, Mooreville
- ❖ Nala Child Care, Guntown
- ❖ NMMC Child Care Center, Tupelo
- ❖ Northside Head Start, Tupelo
- ❖ Pathways Montessori, Tupelo (not full-time)
- ❖ Precious Hands II, Verona
- ❖ Rabbit Patch Day Care, Tupelo
- ❖ Rainbow of Love Child Care Center, Verona
- ❖ Shannon Head Start, Shannon
- ❖ Verona Head Start, Verona



HOW DO YOU LEARN ABOUT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES?

- Health Dept. E-mails (14)
- MS Child Care Resource and Referral Center(8)
- MAP (5)
- Schools (5)
- MSU Early Childhood Institute (1)
- Project Prepare (1)



WHAT HEALTH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND WHO PROVIDES THEM?

Early Intervention/Immunizations (Health Dept.)	6
Mental Health (Region III)	5
Therapy (Regional Rehab)	5
Family Resource Center	4
No response – don't know	3
Speech and Occupational Therapy (Longtown)	2
Know that some are available but don't know what they are	2
Health Fairs	2
Catch Kids	1
Good Samaritan Free Clinic	1
The majority of centers do not receive information on health services available.	



DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS OR DO YOU PROVIDE THESE SERVICES?

- **Parent Meetings once a month (Head Start centers) (5)**
- **Programs through Verona School (1)**
- **Family Resource Center (1)**
- **Parent education nights at preschool (1)**
- **Don't know of any (6)**

DOES YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE MEETINGS BETWEEN PUBLIC/PRIVATE SCHOOLS/HEAD STARTS/CHILD CARE PROVIDERS?

- **Yes (meetings with Verona School) (3)**
- **Have some but need more (2)**
- **Yes with Lee County but not with Tupelo (2)**
- **No – don't know of any/haven't ever been contacted (7)**



WHAT COULD YOUR COMMUNITY DO TO SUPPORT YOUR CENTER?

Volunteer (i.e. reading)	6
Recruit children to participate in head start or other programs	5
Provide more technology and books for children	4
Provide more child care certificate funding/scholarships for those in need	3
Provide more training opportunities	1
Treat child care centers as important part of education	1
Given training on teaching literacy	1
Large, better equipped resource center/library	1
Parent education nights	1
More male role models involved in spending time with children (i.e. sports)	1
Become more aware of what centers can offer children	1

FOR PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN CLASSES ARE STANDARDIZED SCHOOL READINESS ASSESSMENTS PERFORMED ON STUDENTS?

- Yes, at the beginning and end of the year (4)
- Yes, every nine weeks (1)
- Yes, three times a year (1)

Based on the results of assessments, name some skills to be strengthened:

- Fine motor (2)
- Social skills (showing respect for teachers and others) (2)
- Self-help (using restroom independently/dressing self) (2)
- Language/literacy skills (2)
- Math awareness skills (2)
- Gross motor (1)
- Rhyming (1)
- Reading comprehension (1)
- Gross motor (1)
- Letter and number ID (1)

WHAT COULD YOUR COMMUNITY DO TO IMPROVE SCHOOL READINESS?

- **More parent workshops; school/home connection/Parents as Teachers (2)**
- **Smaller number of students in classroom**
- **More school volunteers (1)**
- **Summer library program to promote school readiness (1)**
- **Summer reading camp**
- **Get churches and civic organizations to help with parent education**





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HEALTH SURVEYS

30 surveys were received.

Some questions received multiple answers.

WHAT HEALTH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND WHO PROVIDES THEM?

CATCH Kids	14
North MS Pediatric Clinic	13
Primary health clinics/NMMC	10
Immunizations (Health Dept.)	9
Early Intervention (Health Dept.)	8
Healthworks	5
Asthma Super Saturday/Camp	4
WIC	3
Good Samaritan Free Clinic	3
Medicaid providers (Medserve/Barnes Crossing)	3
Children's Medical Program (Health Dept.)	2
Other answers: therapy at Longtown, Region III mental health, school services for 3-5 yrs, Kool Smiles	

WHAT ARE THE MOST SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Home safety/accidents (due to lack of supervision, negligence, including drowning)	16
Obesity/lack of physical activity	11
Poor nutrition	9
Secondhand smoke/respiratory problems	7
Vehicle safety/lack of proper restraints	6
Acute illness (strep/flu)	6
Poisoning	5
Lack of immunizations	2
No well checkups	2
Asthma	2
Choking	2
Other answers: prompt and proper health care, sexual abuse, no dental, parents not keeping Medicaid appts. Or following up after hospital discharge, diabetes, congenital heart defects	



RANK THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

These items were ranked in order of importance, with 1 most important and 10 least	Avg. Score	#1 Ratings Most Important	#10 Ratings Least Important
Checkups	3.3	7	0
Immunizations	3.4	10	1
Home safety	3.9	7	0
Poison Prevention	4.8	4	3
Transportation Safety	5.7	0	3
Symptom recognition	6.0	0	3
Food Safety	6.6	1	2
First Aid	6.2	1	3
Dental Hygiene	6.7	2	0
Nutrition Education	6.8	5	14

WHAT DEVELOPMENTAL/HEALTH SCREENINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5?

- ❖ Pediatricians – vision/hearing/height/weight (13)
- ❖ Head Start/ECEC (11)
- ❖ Health Dept. (11)
- ❖ Medicaid screening/well checkups/EPSTD's (7)
- ❖ Catch Kids – vision/hearing/physical (4)
- ❖ Free Clinic – vision/hearing/physical (2)

Other answers: Speech through schools with referral to Regional Rehab, Kool Smiles (Dental), Region III, Autism Center, WIC, Tree of Life Clinic

WHAT EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

- ❖ Early Intervention/First Steps/Health Dept. (14)
- ❖ Head Start (8)
- ❖ Therapy at Longtown
(speech/physical/occupational) (6)
- ❖ Neonatal/NICU followup clinic (5)
- ❖ Regional Rehab (3)
- ❖ ECEC (3)
- ❖ WIC (3)

