

Why should I use a family survey?

Conducting family surveys is an effective way to gather information and feedback on areas such as family engagement, program practices, and general satisfaction. Survey results can be used to analyze program improvement areas and can be communicated with stakeholders.

Which family survey should I use?

There are two different, but related versions of family surveys for the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS). Either family survey may be used as districts gather feedback to analyze areas for program improvement or assemble evidence in preparation for an onsite visit. The questions in the Program Improvement Family Survey are a little more focused and translate directly to specific IQPPS criteria. The answers are limited to specific ratings and do not allow for additional comment or clarification. The Preschool Program Family Survey allows for comments to be provided and organizes feedback into areas aligned with the program standards. The purpose of each survey is to gather data that quantifies families' perceptions about program quality.

How should I send the surveys out to families?

This is a local decision. Many programs print and send out hard copies of surveys. Districts may also choose to enter the surveys into an online survey service such as SurveyMonkey or Google Forms, or offer both options to suit the needs of families.

If surveys will be sent through an online service, pay careful attention to the exact phrasing of the questions and response options.

What should I do with the results?

There are summary sheets available to help examine responses collected. Districts can also create their own method for tallying responses if preferred.

Steps to using surveys to improve your program:

1. Download a family survey.
2. Send surveys out to families.
3. Tally the responses. Get at least 50% returned from families.
4. Analyze the results, celebrate strengths and identify areas for improvement.
5. Share the results and make plans with families and teaching staff.
6. Improve your program and allow suitable time for improvements to work.
7. Re-send surveys to determine if improvement efforts were successful.
8. Fine-tune improved policies, procedures, and/or practices as needed.
9. Celebrate your efforts and program improvements!