



Our Children, Our Families Council Survey of Parents & Caregivers Participating in SF Public Library Children's Programs



December, 2015

In the winter of 2015, Our Children, Our Families Council staff partnered with the SF Public Library to survey parents and caregivers who participated in the library system's children's programs. The survey aimed to gather parents' and caregivers' input on how they describe success for their child, their perceptions of community assets and challenges, and any ideas they had for improving families' ability to thrive in San Francisco. The survey was distributed in Spanish, Chinese, and English at branches across the city. Below is a summary of who responded to the survey and a summary of their open-ended responses.

Who Responded to the Survey

- 86 respondents
- Of the respondents, 78% were parents, 14% caregivers, 4% grandparents, 2% community members, and 2% service providers
- 77% of the surveys were completed in English, 15% in Chinese and 8% in Spanish
- Zip code respondents live in: 21% in 94112, 17% in 94116, 10% in 94110, 9% in 94127, 7% in 94112, 7% in 94131, 6% in 94122, 5% in 94132, 2% in 94104, 2% in 94102, 2% in 94121, 2% in 94123, 1% in 94080, 1% in 94109, 1% in 94113, 1% in 94124, 1% in 94129, 1% in 94137, and 1% in 94116 and 94110.

Summary of Survey Responses from Parents

Question #1: What does thriving or success look like for SF's children, youth and families?

- Equal access to resources and services
- Social and emotional support
- More opportunities for reading and writing, less time watching TV/digital devices
- Affordable housing/teacher housing
- Economic stability/Good paying jobs
- Increased cultural competency
- High quality childcare for all
- School readiness/critical thinking opportunities for youth
- Access to healthcare
- Environment that values families
- Access to libraries and parks
- High quality schools
- Opportunities to play sports

Question #2: What are the strengths, resources, and assets that exist in your community to help children, youth and families?

- Storytime
- Libraries and parks
- Books in different languages
- Family resource centers
- Cultural and Arts Centers
- SFUSD schools, teachers and staff
- Camp Mather
- Bike paths
- Local museums
- BART/Muni
- Financial aid for education

- Parent networking
- Opportunities to sports
- Zoo
- Access to technology
- Racial and ethnic diversity
- Beaches
- Preschool for All

Question #3: What are the barriers that keep children, youth and families in your community from thriving?

- Language barriers
- Lack of knowledge of child development
- Lack of educational events
- Financial barriers/high cost of living/low wages
- Housing instability
- Unaffordability, especially for middle class
- Lack of age-appropriate and high quality programs for all ages
- Lack of support and resources for working parents/flexible family leave opportunities
- Lack of play and outdoor time during school day
- Traffic
- Bad neighbors
- Lack of storytime, art, and dance opportunities for toddlers
- Parks & Rec classes fill up fast
- Racism/injustices against communities of color
- Less diversity
- School enrollment
- Politics
- Equal access to technology/wifi/digital divide
- Lack of parking
- Lack of clean and safe parks and neighborhoods
- Too much school work

Summary of Survey Responses from Caregivers

Question #1: What does thriving or success look like for SF's children, youth and families?

- "Happy and healthy families and children
- Free/low-cost resources and activities for youth
- Education and rec programs for all income levels
- Support for parents, especially those with special needs
- Embrace diversity
- Clean and safe libraries, neighborhoods, parks
- Opportunities to be involved in charitable activities for youth

Question #2: What are the strengths, resources, and assets that exist in your community to help children, youth and

- Quality libraries, parks, museums, beaches, gardens
- Storytime
- Food banks

Question #3: What are the barriers that keep children, youth and families in your community from thriving?

- Lack of indoor activities
- Lack of free/low-cost resources and activities for youth
- Lack of clean and safe parks and neighborhoods
- Financial barriers/high cost of living/low wages
- Not enough open slots at quality preschools
- Access to healthcare
- Lack of age-appropriate toys, play structures

Summary of Survey Responses from Grandparents, Community Members and Service Providers

Question #1: What does thriving or success look like for SF's children, youth and families?

- Quality preschools
- Elimination of digital divide
- Engaged families in community programs
- Abundance of resources for language arts, music, books
- Interaction with other children

Question #2: What are the strengths, resources, and assets that exist in your community to help children, youth and families thrive?

- Resources for low-income families
- Quality libraries, recreations, parks
- Safe and clean parks
- Storytime
- Monthly special programs
- Library and parks

Question #3: What are the barriers that keep children, youth and families in your community from thriving?

- Lack of free/low-cost resources and activities for youth
- Unaffordability, especially for middle class
- Equal access to technology/wifi/digital divide
- More resources for children
- More outreach on resources and services available to families
- Crime