

Family Voice Listening Sessions

Agenda and Protocols



Entering preschool is a big milestone for children and their families. We know that when children and families have what they need in a preschool experience, they will be more likely to find success. Effective recruitment and enrollment systems for programs for 3-5-year-old children are a product of thoughtful, authentic collaboration among early learning programs, schools, communities, families, and children.

Family voice is critical to strengthening coordinated recruitment and enrollment. Hearing from families about their own experiences allows us to learn what's working and discover what's missing to support an effective system for all children and families – particularly those furthest from educational justice.

The following prompts will guide our conversations with families:

Thinking about your experience finding and enrolling in early learning for your 3-5-year-old...

- How did you find a program?
- How did that process feel?
- What factors did you have to consider in finding care?

Thinking about after your child was enrolled in a child care or preschool...

- What is your favorite part of your child's early learning program?
- How satisfied have you been with this early learning experience (both you and your child)?
- If your child's needs changed after they were enrolled in a specific program, how did their new needs get met?

Facilitation Reminders

- We are counting on emergence to show us how this will work going forward, each participant will inform this emergence. We will pay attention to that.
- We will work to create a talking circle process, where we listen intently, where the space is intentional, where honoring each is the work of us all.
- We will make sure each family member is offered space to share. They may always decline.
- OSPI or DCYF staff are there to listen and hold space – family member participants will take most of the talking time.
- Disagreement, differences, and conflict are spaces for compassion. We need them. They can be hard and we will hold them as much as we do with joy.
- Direct feedback catalyzes continuous improvement. We will make mistakes and we honor any feedback.

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Welcome:

On arrival, participants are invited to use the annotate function on Zoom to indicate their connections or experience.

Video: A Parent's Perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QB9TvWikEnE>

What to expect:

The results of this conversation, combined with the voices of families across the state, will help inform how to support families in Washington to find their best option in early learning for their 3-5 year old child.

Please feel free to use the chat function as well as talking. Individual responses, verbal and written, will remain anonymous. We will offer the notes back to participants for review before we use them in any context.

Discussion/Conversation

Small Groups (1 hour)

Thinking about your experience finding and enrolling in early learning for your 3-5-year-old...

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Encourage participants to share their stories. Pause and leave space. Notetakers record what family members say anonymously.

Large group share out (20 mins)

Closing (10 mins)

1. What was an insight, or an "aha!" moment you had?
2. Is there someone in your community you would recommend we speak with to hear other perspectives on early learning coordination around recruitment and enrollment?



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