

Voices Of Our Families!

Findings From the
2020 Fall Parent Interview



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Thank you for participating in the Cummings Family Interview.

The information provided in this interview helps inform what **resources** and **events** Cummings Great Expectations should provide, as well as **professional development training** for staff, so we can best support our children and families.

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Please contact Lisa White (Project Director, American Institutes for Research at lwhite@air.org) if you have any questions or want learn more about the interview findings.

Who We Are at Cummings Great Expectations!

Every year, families who attend Cummings get a chance to share how they are doing by reporting about their family life. During the Fall of the 2020-2021 school year, Cummings served a total of **62 children**. 34 families at Cummings, **reporting on a total of 40 children**, took the survey administered in Fall 2020. This means we reached a **response rate of 65% this year**.

Families come in all shapes and sizes:



18% of families have more than one child who attends Cummings.

The majority of children, **82%** are taken care of primarily by their mother.



88% of Cummings caregivers were employed at the time of the interview

97% of parents reported they completed their High School Degree or GED.



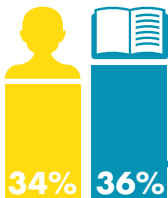
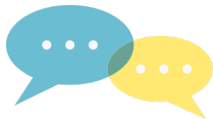
15% of Cummings caregivers are currently attending a training program or school

Supporting Children at Home

How often did families talk while doing tasks?

Cummings caregivers love to talk to their child while doing everyday tasks or running errands.

72% of families reported talking with their child while doing these tasks almost every day!



How often did families read with their child in the past week?

36% of caregivers **read** their child a story almost every day.

34% of caregivers **told** their child a story almost every day.



48% of caregivers played counting games, like singing songs with numbers or reading books with numbers, with their children almost every day.



HELPFUL TIPS

Learning begins at birth and you are your baby's first teacher!

- o When you talk, read, and sing with your child—even before they can use words—you're building her brain and helping to prepare them for success in school and in life. In a time of social distancing, we recognize that many families are spending more time at home. We want to share ideas from the Talking is Teaching campaign to help you talk, read, and sing with your child every day!
- o Ask your teachers or visit <https://TalkingIsTeaching.org/> to find some tips and resources grounded in science to help you talk, read, and sing with your child every day!



Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our families' work and daily life:

1 in 6 caregivers reported losing jobs permanently during the pandemic.



56% of Caregivers cut back hours at work & 59% had family members that were essential workers.

How many families had close family members who were impacted by the COVID-19 virus itself?



1 in 6 caregivers said they have had family members that were diagnosed with COVID-19.



1 in 10 families experienced a family member's passing due to the pandemic.

COVID-19 negatively affected some caregivers' mental health, and somewhat less frequently, their physical health...

30% of Caregivers

said their emotional well-being has suffered since the beginning of the pandemic.



30% of Caregivers

reported their physical health was made a little worse or a lot worse by the pandemic.

“It has definitely brought us closer.”
– Cummings parent

“A positive effect was her relationship became closer. Negative effect is mom works in the health care field.”
– Cummings parent

HELPEFUL TIPS

We recognize the huge impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on families' well-being.

- o To support families, we provide the following resources:
 - o Covid Relief Kits
 - o Mindfulness Resources in Partnership with Crim
 - o Mindfulness Video/Audio Practices at Crim
 - o Call 810-600-5461 to find out more about our services.



Family Relationships



Despite the changes and uncertainty of COVID-19, nearly all families reported having positive relationships with their children.

100% of caregivers shared warm relationships with their children.



39% of families said that the pandemic actually made their family relationship a little or a lot better.



44% of caregivers reported that their parenting improved during the pandemic.

88% of caregivers said their children would seek comfort when feeling upset.

100% of the caregivers

said their children were definitely comfortable with their physical affection.

100% of caregivers valued their relationship with their child.

HELPFUL TIPS

To support positive family relationships, Cummings Great Expectations provides these resources:

- Mindfulness Resources in Partnership with Crim
- Nurturing Parents Curriculum with FAME
- We use the Nurturing Parents Curriculum in FAME and WOW

Family Challenges

Family Challenges with food and home security...

15% of families at Cummings Great Expectations had some worries about food running out.



9% of our families

reported sometimes feeling worried during the past year that they and their children might become homeless.



Family Social Supports

Parents ranked the most effective support as:

- #1** School/Child Care Center
- #2** Family (Spouses, children, parents)
- #3** My Own Children

HELPFUL TIPS

Cummings Staff have access to many community resources and family support services, such as:



Families can engage in a variety of classroom & program activities

- o Catholic Charities
- o Cross Over Ministries
- o Genesee Health Systems
- o Little Lambs
- o Salvation Army
- o The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

Ask your child's teacher for more information.

- o Mini Cafe
- o Parent Cafe
- o Parent Committees
- o Parent Networks:
 - o Parent Ambassadors
 - o Fathers and Men Engaged (F.A.M.E.)
 - o Women of Worth (W.O.W.)
 - o Never Stop Learning (N.S.L)
 - o Parent Mentors



Thank You Families!