

Voices Of Our Families!

Findings From the
2020 Fall Parent Interview



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Thank you for participating in the Educare Family Interview.

The information provided in this interview helps inform what resources and events Educare Flint should provide, as well as professional development training for staff, so we can best support our children and families!

What's Included:

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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 Educare Flint!

Every year, families who attend Educare Flint get a chance to share how they are doing by reporting about their family life. During the Fall of the 2020-2021 school year, Educare Flint served a total of **88 children and 65 families**, a decrease in enrollment compared to the previous school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **70% of the families** at Educare Flint responded to the interview in Fall 2020.

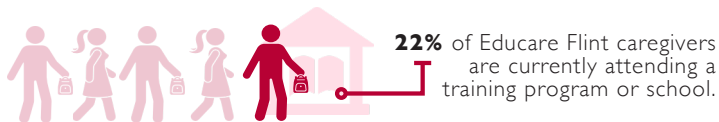
Families come in all shapes and sizes:



The majority of children, **87%** are taken care of primarily by their mother.



84% of Educare parents reported they completed their High School Degree or GED.

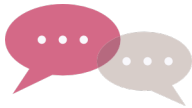


Supporting Children at Home

How often did families talk while doing tasks?

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

71% of families reported talking with their child while doing these tasks almost every day!



18%



16%

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

16% of caregivers **read** their child a story almost every day.

18% of caregivers **told** their child a story almost every day.



31%

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, you're building their brain and helping to prepare them for success in school and in life!
- o Ask your teachers or visit TalkingIsTeaching.org to find some tips and resources grounded in science to help you talk, read, and sing with your child every day!
- o Talking, reading and looking at books with your child regularly helps boost child development.
- o Teaching children words, letters, and numbers at home and while out in the community boosts readiness for school.
- o Ask your teacher or visit LiteracyEssentials.org to find tips and literacy resources promoted by MDE.



Impact of COVID-19

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

1 in 5 caregivers reported losing jobs permanently during the pandemic.



59%
Of Caregivers cut back hours

at work or 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 3 caregivers said they have had family members that were diagnosed with COVID-19.



1 in 20

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...

48% of Caregivers

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



26% of Caregivers

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

“The positive thing was I had a lot more time to spend with my kids. The negative is I lost my job in the process.”

– Educare Flint parent

“The quarantine was wonderful for us ... getting to do zoom webinars with the teachers were helpful.”

– Educare Flint parent

HELPFUL 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 Mindfulness Resources in Partnership with Crim
 - o Mindfulness Video/Audio Practices at Crim
 - o Call 810-600-5400 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.

98% of caregivers shared warm relationships with their children.



31% of caregivers said that the pandemic actually made their family relationship a little or a lot better.



55% of caregivers reported that their parenting improved during the pandemic.

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

93% of the caregivers

said their children were definitely comfortable with their physical affection.

97% of caregivers valued their relationship with their child.

HELPFUL TIPS

To support positive family relationships, Educare Flint provides these resources:

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

Family Challenges

Family Challenges with food and home security...



15%

reported that food ran out at least once during the past year.



38%

of families at Educare Flint had some worries about food running out.



11% 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** Professional Helpers (social workers, teachers, etc.)

HELPFUL TIPS

Educare families have access to many community resources and family support services, such as:

- o Cross Over Ministries
- o Edushare Market
- o Genesee Health Systems
- o Little Lambs
- o Salvation Army
- o The Food Bank of Eastern MI

Ask your child's teacher for more information.

Families can engage in a variety of classroom & program activities

- o Early Head Start Activity Calendar
- o Google Classroom Activities
- 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!