

Parent Quote Archive

Winter 2023 Survey

We asked parents open-ended questions about what their biggest challenges and concerns are, what is helping them the most, how do they define quality time for their family, what are their biggest challenges to quality time, what have been their biggest challenges to access child care, and what are the biggest hopes they have for their school-going children .

Below are some of the messages from Illinois parents from our second survey:

(Please note: The following are responses of individual parents in our Illinois Parent Survey and do not necessarily represent the views of Illinois Action for Children or its Board.)

What are the biggest challenges and concerns for you and your family right now?

- “It’s very stressful planning/deciding what to make for dinner since my kids and husband are so picky! Another difficulty is making Lunch for my 7-year-old for school since he’s so picky and more money needs to be spent to buy extra food for his lunch.”
- “Uncertainty about the future of work.”
- “Being able to afford all the bare necessities/essentials.”
- “Financial. Can't afford the bills anymore with inflation and it’s even more difficult once you get behind on bills”
- “My biggest concern is being able to pay bills”
- “Keeping up with our household bills.”
- “Right now is flu season. My kids have been sick and we have not really been able to go out.”
- “My sons developmental delay.”
- “Financial concerns. Relying on spouse’s income not being sufficient to cover all monthly expenses or payments.”
- “That we are a big family so it's more expensive to provide for all.”
- “None paying for diapers & clothes”

- “Lack of health and income coming in.”
- “The area we stay in.”
- “I don’t have any challenges right now. I’m happy with the way things are.”
- “Finding time to cook! Knowing I have enough money to buy groceries.”
- “I need full time care for full time hours at work.”
- “Right now having enough money to live comfortably.”
- “Being accepted for childcare for my three-year-old so that I can work.”
- “Just finding childcare and money being enough to cover the costs of living. On a single parent budget.”
- “Finding stable housing and a good career.”
- “Making ends meet.”
- “Having little in-person support outside of pre-k, am a single parent with no income looking for flexible work and relying on family and government assistance.”
- “Getting an apartment and my car so I don’t have to depend on anyone else.”
- “Not having enough funds to live in this economy.”
- “The inflation and rising interest rates.”
- “Paying student loans, bills, and still having money for other necessities.”
- “Maintain work and home balance is the biggest challenge for us right now.”
- “Our link card (SNAP benefit) got canceled. My income went up by \$100 and the \$300 monthly got canceled.”
- “I’m a single mom of twins so that takes a lot out of me and I feel alone and burdened by keeping up with everything ... feeling like if I want to continue being supported by the state I can’t earn too much money even if I had the time/energy to.”
- “Healthier cleaner diet, finances, transportation.”
- “Having enough quality time.”
- “Getting them to have less TV time.”
- “The rising costs will significantly reduce the amount of extracurricular activities we can participate in.”
- “Money, the cost of a good meal, support, gas, car problems and it overheats. I definitely need a new car.”

- “Due to prices of fresh food I've been buying fast food because its more affordable and now they expect to eat out all the time.”
- “Balancing child care and work. Lactation for baby when at work. Cost of groceries.”
- “The biggest challenge is not getting a break for myself and I feel like it’s messing with my mental health.”
- “Paying utilities and car insurance.”
- “Learning to deal with mood with my 5-year-old.”
- “Keeping up with everyday life, getting baby to sleep a full night in crib.”
- “Making ends meet and still being able to live and enjoy life.”
- “The cost of quality childcare keeps me from working full time and moving forward in my career.”
- “Everything is so expensive now. Food? Housing? Gas? Everything.”
- “Employment and moving to a safer neighborhood.”
- “My 13-year-old child has been diagnosed with diabetes type 1 a few months ago. This is a big challenge for us.”
- “Biggest challenge is just having time to be together more often.”
- “Our home. I feel like we need more space. On top of that the owners of our home doesn't come out really to help with concerns about the house. I feel like my home is falling apart.”
- “Not making enough to afford groceries, diapers, and childcare.”
- “I just want to be financially stable with at least \$10,000 in the bank to always have for a rainy day.... I am tired of living paycheck to paycheck and barely having it.”
- “Paying the bills on time or at all. Potty training my child and getting her to eat better. Hoping she calms down a bit and follows instructions better.”
- “Money for non-food items, e.g. over the counter kids medicine, household supplies, gas, my school fees and nursing school supplies etc.”
- “Being able to stay on top of bills and transportation while staying in school. Sometimes I feel like I just need to get a full-time job but I really want/need to stay in school.”
- “Finances affording rent and being able to pay other bills. Plus, food groceries are so expensive now it makes it a challenge too.”
- “Getting formula, diapers and cereals.”
- “Finding a child care for our youngest children that is lower costs.”

- “Tiempo para los niños. Problemas económicos. Problemas de salud.” (Time for the children, financial problems, Health problems)
- “Dinero.” (Money)
- “Económicamente” (Financially)
- “Vivienda, bebe en camino y pocas horas de trabajo de mi esposo.” (Housing, baby on the way and my husband's few hours of work.)
- “La conducta de mi hijo, tiene 3 años y ha pegado ocasionalmente cuando siente que le quitan algo o no cedemos a sus demandas.” (My son's behavior, he is 3 years old and has hit occasionally when he feels that something is being taken away from him or we do not give in to his demands.)
- “Poder pagar el alquiler en los próximos meses de invierno.” (Being able to pay rent in the coming winter months)
- “Retos económicos, perdí mi trabajo y mi esposo hace Uber pero gana muy poco, a veces no tenemos dinero para pagar el alquiler ni la comida.” (Economic challenges, I lost my job and my husband does Uber but he earns very little, sometimes we don't have money to pay rent or food.)
- “El precio de la comida, el aumento de rentas.” (the price of food and increase in rent prices)
- “Tener un trabajo estable que nos permita llevar dinero a nuestra casa.” (To have a stable job that allows us to bring money home)

What is helping you and your family the most right now?

- “Sticking together.”
- “My family.”
- “Grandmother helps a lot.”
- “We don't make Birthday parties for our kids anymore since usually that was around \$250-\$400, instead we celebrate at home (just us) with a small cake and going somewhere fun. Also during Christmas we are kind of steering towards no more gifts. All of this is helping us save on money costs for necessities.”
- “There's nothing to say.”
- “Food pantries.”

- “My mom and my in-laws are been so helpful.”
- “Government assistance.”
- “Therapy and using all the resources available for him.”
- “Family lending money.”
- “Work and food stamps.”
- “Medicaid and SNAP.”
- “My child’s aunt.”
- “Affordable living/low income. Also having access to food stamps and medical insurance as well as local food pantries.”
- “Child care help! Being able to get help with daycare has been my greatest blessing.”
- “Financial Assistance such as LINK, WIC, & Illinois Action for Children.”
- “Prayer.”
- “Spending time together and family members helping out.”
- “The kids’ dad working and I’m taking care of home.”
- “My parents.”
- “I do hair for money and that’s been keeping us above water.”
- “Not going to restaurants and places where we are just going to waste money unnecessary.”
- “Government benefits SNAP, WIC, and medical care, and financial help from family member.”
- “God.”
- “My job.”
- “Nothing. I feel lost at the moment.”
- “I’m in a program, Heartland alliance, that helps me with housing for a year for free! Helping me get back on my feet.”
- “Having a stable family and schools for kids.”
- “Food stamps and pre-HeadStart.”
- “Having a great family support system.”
- “Shopping sales and making meals so they last 2 nights.”
- “Each other, extended family members.”
- “Food pantry.”
- “Being there for each other.”
- “The love we have for each other and caring and helping one another when the other can’t!”

- “Nothing.”
- “State funding for child care and my kid's grandparents / uncle, Medicaid for the kids and help from my parents to pay for housing.”
- “My full-time job with budget cuts, me not getting my needs or wants.”
- “Learning games!”
- “CCAP.”
- “Love and togetherness.”
- “Section 8 and the SNAP I receive, child care, but it’s temporary if I don’t find employment soon.”
- “Having grandparents help with child care and meals.”
- “Mom’s help.”
- “Taking the kids out to relax.”
- “Just taking it day-by-day.”
- “No one.”
- “Budgeting.”
- “SNAP is very helpful in paying for healthy food for my children.”
- “TANF and food stamps.”
- “Public assistance.”
- “We love each other.”
- “Working more,”
- “Making Sundays as fundays from work and school.”
- “Myself. Trying every thing I can think of to make sure my children are ok.”
- “My parents helping out here and there financially.”
- “Renting out a room vs an apartment and goinf to food donation places.”
- “The government.”
- “Public assistance is really helping me and my family the most now.”
- “being together and my daughter’s daycare provider has become a good friend.”
- “SNAP card.”
- “Family time.”
- “Child care and EBT.”
- “Getting assistance for daycare, food, and cash. I don’t know where we would be without that.”

- “Church.”
- “Making space for each other and time to spend together.”
- “Increasing the income.”
- “Apoyo familiar y trabajo” (Family support and work)
- “Rutinas. Reglas.” (Routines. Rules)
- “Dinero.” (Money)
- “Programa WIC.” (WIC program)
- “Apoyo de gobierno en comida.” (Government support for food)
- “Los cursos y videos asi como la escuela.” (Courses and videos, as well as the school)
- “Pues que tengo la ayuda de pagar mis biles y la ayuda de poder comprar comida.” (Well, I have the help of paying my bills and the help of being able to buy food.)
- “Ahora no me ayuda nada más que encontrar un buen trabajo que paguen algo decente.” (Now nothing helps me more than finding a good job that pays decently.)
- “La unión, amor y apoyo.” (Being united, love and support)
- “Pago de colegiaturas y renta.” (Payment of tuition and rent)
- “La capacidad por hacer cosas que ayuden al beneficio.” (The ability to do things that help profit)

Many parents consider quality time to be essential for their families. How do you define 'quality time' for your family?

- “A time well spent with my family.”
- “Go to the park together.”
- “Family dinner time, visiting with grandmother.”
- “I make sure we go outdoors (weather permitting) as a family and play together. I think that spending time outdoors is important for our health, and we bond as a family at the same time. If the weather is bad we spend time playing together in the basement (play room).”
- “Accompany children to play, eat, read, feel children's happiness from the heart!”
- “Playing board games together, baking together, going out for a family activity together, movie night at home with popcorn and other goodies, crafting. Quality time means no phones out and all our attention is on the current activity we are doing together.”
- “Sitting down and reading or playing together with toys. Mealtime together every day.”

- “Quality time for my family is to pray before we eat together at the table. Read with our children and ask questions about the book.”
- “Doing things together such as going to the zoo.”
- “When we spend time together.”
- “Quality time for us is like playing a family game or watching a movie together.”
- “Quality time means being together as a family. The definition of quality time to me is engaging in family activities or even just being at home watching movies/ eating dinner together.”
- “Hang together, eat together, stay home, or go to library or places and hang.”
- “Do activities together.”
- “Spending time together outdoors, enjoying a meal, or just having a conversation.”
- “Enjoying each one's presence.”
- “For us, quality time with our kids is expending the more time that we can with them. Talk with them about how much they care for us. Have game nights with them. Read or tell stories to them. Have dinner together. Help them with what they need at homework time. Be there for them every time they need us.”
- “Coloring, talking, playing games, practicing letters.”
- “Quality time is planning an activity, event, or going out and only focusing on the moment. With no interruptions.”
- “We often watch movies together and go on outings like the museum. We also ready and prepare dinner together.”
- “Quality time is being with my son more than an hour or two out the day to talk to him to play with or go out to the park.”
- “Going to events and activities outside the home as well as watching movies on our couch or playing family video games.”
- “We spend every evening playing together with both parents. We eat snacks and sing and dance together.”
- “Quality time is doing chores together. Watching tv together and exploring together.”
- “Carving time out the day to eat talk play etc. So that as a family we are bonding and getting to know each other deeper.”
- “Spending time together either at home or running errands.”

- “Quality time for my family is watching movies together, eating dinner together conversations about life.”
- “It’s the most important part to me to be able to spend time with my girls.”
- “Eating together, movie night.”
- “Quality time is dedicating time with my children and doing something that we all enjoy together such as an engaged activity, or simply just watching a movie.”
- “Quality time is when you show your love and respect.”
- “Being together and going out for a walk, watching a movie or doing some activities. Family time where we are all together at least 2 hours.”
- “Time spent together with no distractions, attention focused on each other and the activity we’re doing.”
- “Singing together. Undivided attention.”
- “A movie night with a bunch of snacks and our favorite pajamas.”
- “Mainly the time spent together playing, watching a movie etc.”
- “Going to the park, doing laundry, going to the library, free events for kids.”
- “Doing things together such as activities. Watching movies together.”
- “Quality family time is having dinner together doing activities with each other. Weekend bonding.”
- “Time together without distractions of phone or television.”
- “Reading books and playing educational games and sometimes going to events.”
- “Fully enjoy time spent together.”
- “Quality time is when we are having conversations about our day or playing without technology.”
- “Quality time means for us to all be together, bonding with each other. It doesn't matter if we're doing something fun or just watching a movie, that's all a part of quality time and we love it!”
- “Watching movies together while eating dinner.”
- “Reading books doing puzzles playing games and playing with toys or going out together and doing fun activities!”
- “Spending time together and enjoying each other's company.”
- “Being silly together or doing a shared activity, snuggling, being social, talking, singing.”
- “Playing a game or interacting.”

- “Interacting with your child. Playing games, reading a book, engaging in activities with your child.”
- “Spending time together doing anything that we can as a family. We tend to find experiences we can all do.”
- “No TV, doing activities with the whole family. Have dinner together.”
- “One-on-one interaction with no distraction.”
- “Eating dinner together every night. Engaging in conversations that are important to my children. Being supportive of their activities.”
- “Enjoying your child company, playing, reading, going to park, combing hair, hugging her and telling her I love her several times a day.”
- “When we watch TV.”
- “Spending undistracted time as a family- going to the park together, reading or puzzle.”
- “Being in each other's presence and engaging together making memories, playing singing cooking together.”
- “Spending time as a family.”
- “Time focused on the present moment while doing an activity that all can participate in other than watching tv or using devices.”
- “Being together and being communicative.”
- “We love taking the children to the zoo, aquarium and other child friendly activities throughout the city, we try to do something special every Sunday and it makes our 3-year-old very happy.”
- “Time spent with just you and your baby. It could mean going out to eat, eating in, going to the movies, or the mall, just any time that's spent with just you and your child.”
- “Playing together, reading together, eating together.”
- “Spending time with my family doing things they enjoy and love to do.”
- “I wish to spend much more time with my kids. But since I have 4 kids, work and home routines, I don't have enough time for my kids.”
- “Quality time for our family means to meet their necessities from school & also meeting their recreational wants such as soccer practices & enjoying time as a family by going out to have dinner or watching movies together. We also try to engage in their after-school activities as much as our job allows us.”

- “My husband & I work hours don't mesh well and older girls are in school activities so family time is difficult to have more than we'd like, we make Sundays our family day.”
- “During family time we watch movies together. Go on walks to the park. Color. Have game nights. Or talk about what's bothering them and how I can fix it.”
- “Playing together, doing activities together, watching a movie together.”
- “Going out to a park, arranging playdates with family members, taking walks.”
- “Spending time together, making sure to laugh and have fun. feel the love feel important.”
- “Quality time means giving both of my children the love and attention equally.”
- “Time spent with the family being relaxed and non-stressed. Time where we can enjoy each other's company and laugh. Time for cuddles and tickles. Time for smiling and loving one another.”
- “Dinner time is the time we use to catch up and talk about our day. Taking some time to go out during weekends.”
- “Spending Time as One.”
- “Every moment I spend with my child is quality time. Anything that engages him and puts a smile on his face.”
- “Watching movies, reading books, going to the museum or park, playing with toys together.”
- “Playing games, watching kids, movies eating together.”
- “Enjoying each other and talking with another.”
- “Spending more than 3 hours in engaging play with my children and their needs or interests. Doing this they want to do and giving my full attention.”
- “Enough time to spend together such as eating dinner or praying together.”
- “Anytime together talking to each other and just spending time together. Whether it be dinner or doing something fun.”
- “Having active conversations, playing together, teaching them life skills, being interested in each other.”
- “When we eat together. When we watch movies together.”
- “Just being together going out for dinner or watching a movie.”
- “For me quality time is spending time together and having at least one meal of the day together. This has been so hard to achieve for our family since a few days. Every family deserves spending moments of peace, love and laughter with each other.”

- “Not tv and tablet all the time. Conversation between us to express our thinking and feelings.”
- “Valioso, importante.” (Valuable, important)
- “Crecimiento.” (Growth)
- “Le damos amor todos los días, para que siempre tengamos tiempo para nuestro hijo.” (We give him love every day, so that we always have time for our son.)
- “Juntos, sin distracciones digitales, realizando alguna actividad recreativa como ir al parque o caminar.” (Spending time together, without digital distractions, doing a recreational activity such as going to the park or walking.)
- “Prestar atención a sus necesidades y/o inquietudes. [Utilizar] el juego como parte de su crecimiento. Involúcrate en su mundo y trata de comprender sus miedos o entusiasmos. Haz conexiones para crear momentos que recuerdes con cariño.” (Pay attention to their needs and/or concerns. Use play as part of their development. Get involved in their world and try to understand their fears or enthusiasms. Make connections to create moments you remember fondly.)
- “Yo siento q eso es lo más importante y más en estos tiempos tener tiempo para platicar con los hijos y poder entender y lo que les inquieta a cada uno de los hijos que tenemos.” (I feel that this is the most important thing and more so in these times to make time to talk with the children and to be able to understand what worries each of the children we have.)
- “El poco tiempo que tenemos juntos trato de comunicarme con ellas y no tener celulares en la cena para poder tener contacto visual.” (The little time we have together I try to communicate with them and not have cell phones at dinner so I can have eye contact.)
- “Comer todos juntos, compartir tiempo jugando, mirar películas, leer cuentos.” (Eat together, spending time playing together, watching movies and reading books.)

What have been the biggest challenges for you to spend quality time with your child(ren)?

- “Work.”
- “No challenge. I dedicate my time to my child.”
- “Energy.”

- “My two-year-old has been wanting to watch the tablet more often now since he sees that his older brother who is 7 watches videos on it. There have been instances where I tell him for us to play, but he says ‘tablet?’.”
- “Sometimes I am too tired or just not in the mood, but I will try to shake myself from the funky mood and still be present in the moment. Life is hard, especially when you don't have the means to do all the things your kids have the desire to do.”
- “It's hard to balance doing housework and making individual one on one time with kids. It is somedays hard to play too as my mine cant get in the mood if I'm troubled by other things.”
- “None.”
- “From working as a full time.”
- “Sometimes they just don't want to play.”
- “Worrying and trying to find a way to pay bills had kept me from spending time with my kids.”
- “The biggest challenge would be being stressed out from life it's self. Sometimes I'm not in the mood or have energy to give to my children.”
- “Work gets in the way. Bills and life.”
- “having to tend more to the 15-month-old's needs.”
- “Being a busy mom is a challenge.”
- “Work a lot very tired after work.”
- “I fall behind on schoolwork. My mother and brother were hospitalized and need home care provided by me. We only have my car which I need to drive everyone. My daughter needs to be dropped off and picked up from preschool and daycare.”
- “Other than not having money all the time to go places. Other than that, that's the biggest challenge we face sometime.”
- “Getting off work and to be in traffic 1 hour and picking him up from daycare and we back at home doing the same mundane routine. Eat bathe sleep.”
- “Only challenge I can acknowledge is maybe one of the children does not want to participate sometimes.”
- “Due to work we do not have many hours to share together on top of all the house duties that need to be done.”
- “I'm only almost 3 months post-partum.”

- “Since my child is 1 year old it’s hard to find things that interest me and her. Her attention span is shorter.”
- “Working full time and getting home late.”
- “Having older children with disability and needing to be in a hospital for a week or two at a time is sometimes a challenge for quality time as a whole family.”
- “Finding a good paying job that I can have time to spend with them too but also make sure they are taken care of.”
- “Getting enough time in a day to get to myself.”
- “Getting everyone to have done homework or be free to do something together. With the weather changing there is usually someone sick each week that needs extra care. Therefore someone is left out family time.”
- “Too many demands on time. Time is limited with maintaining the household and trying to make care tasks quality time.”
- “Feeling up to it.”
- “Too many things to do after work and school.”
- “Not living in my own home.”
- “It’s really work and my schedule.”
- “Financial.”
- “Work and other responsibilities have made it hard for us to work around making more family time.”
- “The needs for all the children are different.”
- “Multitasking with work or cooking/cleaning.”
- “So many things to do and being tired.”
- “Work and home time balance, household duties and school responsibilities.”
- “Balancing work and personal time with my work from home schedules.”
- “My work hours changing and feeling too tired to do a lot after work. Working with kids all day then coming home trying to engage in fun activities with my own child has become hard!”
- “No challenges. I’m just exhausted a lot.”
- “I’m tired or they just want screen time.”
- “I need to get a lot of things done and taken care of and it's hard to spend QUALITY time with my son.”

- “Sometimes the distraction.”
- “Conflicting schedules with work, school, and daycare hours.”
- “Getting them to turn off the TV.”
- “Managing home and needs of my child.”
- “Having to work all day then do household chores after work.”
- “I wish I had more money to do more with her and take her places. I need more support. Sometimes, I will be worried about my bills and sometimes I can enjoy her because I figure things out.”
- “Our schedules do not align.”
- “Not having enough time in a day, chores, cleaning the house.”
- “Being present and spending time with my child means my home chores, which leads to planning a to-do list in my head and that leads to disengaging with my child.”
- “Oldest is becoming more independent.”
- “Having two kids and a part time job is a lot of work. A lot of times I find it hard to spend quality time with them except for on Sundays.”
- “I really don't have challenges when it comes to spending time with my baby. I try to make sure I spend time with her every day, and I try to plan our weekend with activities since my child is in school during the week.”
- “Seeking employment takes hours everyday.”
- “Trying to find work and trying to be financially stable to provide for my family.”
- “Working full time and not having enough time to do all the mom duties/house work while also attending to the children's needs.”
- “Biggest challenge is actually finding the time for family moments, life just gets in the way, same routine on autopilot.”
- “My health issues and financial situation.”
- “Having time off work and having transportation for my child to get to and from before care and aftercare. When my child is home from school on time we get more time together. I've been trying to make up time by staying in my daughter's room until she falls asleep because she gets home later from aftercare now since we have to rely on transportation for her for the time being.”
- “Don't agree on what to do.”

- “I work in child care. I often use all my patience at work and have little left for my own child.”
- “I always feel like I have so much to do in so little time. There is always laundry or cleaning to do when we are home. my 9-month-old is highly demanding and always wants to be held, so it is hard to give my older two the attention they need while holding her.”
- “Trying to be a mother of 4 kids.”
- “Work a lot so I'm very tired when I get home.”
- “Work and sleep. Plus added on schoolwork.”
- “Kids not being able to stay still.”
- “I'm full-time student so whatever time I have available it's totally spent with my kids.”
- “Being exhausted is a challenge due to working.”
- “Working full time leaves little time for my kids and I to have 1 on 1 time.”
- “School all day then picking them up, cooking dinner, cleaning up dinner, cleaning kitchen, and bath takes up most days during the week.”
- “Time restrictions. I have to cook, clean and take care of the baby. Sometimes I feel bad because I don't give my baby enough time but I also have to get other tasks done.”
- “Tablet.”
- “Tareas del hogar mas abrumadoras.” (The overwhelming household chores)
- “El tener que trabajar muchas horas.” (Having to work long hours)
- “Ninguna.” (None)
- “No desafiamos el tiempo para nuestro hijo.” (We always make time for our son)
- “Que su papá le dé tiempo para pasar tiempo de calidad con nosotros.” (For his dad to have time to spend quality time with us)
- “Las tareas diarias a veces no me permiten jugar con el niño durante el tiempo que mi hijo me lo pide.” (Daily chores sometimes do not allow me to play with my child for as long as my son would like me to.)
- “Pues, como en estos tiempos la tecnología esta muy fuerte, es un desafío muy grande poder lograr que los niños hagan otra cosa.” (Well, since technology is very prevalent these days, it is a very big challenge to be able to get children to do something else)
- “La tecnología.” (Technology)
- “Realizar labores de el hogar, realizar tareas, ocupaciones fuera de el hogar.” (Carry out housework, perform tasks and errands outside the home)

What have been the biggest challenges for your family to access child care arrangements that support your work schedule, if any?

- “Time and distance.”
- “No challenge.”
- “My husband works on call so that is unpredictable. Financially, we cannot afford child care and don’t qualify for income help so I stay home with the kids.”
- “None. I chose to be a stay home mom. Child care is too expensive.”
- “Early mornings.”
- “Good place.”
- “I don't make enough money to pay for childcare.”
- “After hours. I need to do overtime.”
- “Not enough hours. She is only in daycare from 11:45am-3 or 4pm.”
- “Changing different times.”
- “There are not many people who you trust with your child and care on the weekends are slim. My family is deceased and/or out of state. I have to pay his relatives.”
- “Sometimes it's hard to find someone to drive the babies to day care.”
- “Reliability.”
- “Finding someone that can watch her while I work the hours that I work.”
- “Finances.”
- “The amount childcare costs.”
- “Not being able to find a daycare I trust.”
- “Can’t really find a good job that is consistent with an everyday morning schedule.”
- “No overnight or early morning care.”
- “My work hours working with other family member’s schedules.”
- “Finding a good child care.”
- “Nothing. Trying to find a new one close to my home has been the only difficulty!”
- “None.”
- “Making sure I qualify for state funding help and keeping up, some family lives farther away and my folks are ageing.”
- “I only have 1 car that's not the best to drive and it's hard to get places.”

- “Hours.”
- “I honestly don’t have any.”
- “I am seeking employment. The challenge is finding something open earlier. Some jobs want you to be there at 4am 5am 6am or 7am. My daycare doesn't open until 7am. I had to turn down position because of that. Also, some of these truck companies want you to be on the road at least 6-7 months to even get a local position.”
- “Everything works out because my mom works in the same company as me and she takes over as soon i clock in.”
- “Short child care hours, children too young for PreK, no reliable child care around the area for young children.”
- “None as of yet.”
- “I don’t have outside child care. Too worried it won’t be safe.”
- “Quality child care is just too expensive.”
- “No challenges.”
- “Employment.”
- “It's been hard not all jobs aligned with the hours of available child care and vice versa.”
- “No challenges, childcare is available Monday through Friday, and it matches the same hours as my work hours.”
- “Finances- all day preschool at an accredited school is expensive- more than my mortgage.”
- “Finding family members to help me take care of my child.”
- “Price of child care.”
- “Being able to drop my child off at before care so they can get my daughter on the school bus and having the daycare provider drop my child off when she can after she gets off the bus from school.”
- “With the help of Action for Children, I don't have any challenge with child care.”
- “Finding weekend care is difficult.”
- “My last class on MWF gets done at 1:50 and my two oldest kids get out of school at 2:40. sometimes it is hard to make it on time to pick them up with the traffic and commute.”
- “Just getting state to help pay or accept paper work for daycare changes.”
- “My work schedule is odd hours 11:30am to 8pm so sometimes people are not available.”
- “I don't believe in childcare services. I like to take care of my child myself.”

- “We need a cheap daycare. The monthly fee is more than I earn in a month.”
- “El idioma y no saber a donde acudir.” (The language barrier and not knowing where to go)
- “Viven lejos.” (They live far away)
- “No tengo un desafío con respecto a ese tema.” (I don’t have a challenge in this area)
- “No hay ninguno.” (None)

What are some of the biggest hopes you have for your child(ren) going to school this academic year?

- “To be the best he can be in everything he put his mind too.”
- “To learn new things. Make new friends. Learn a new routine.”
- “I would love for my 7-year-old to learn how to add, subtract, tell the narrative of a story, and to be a good classmate.”
- “Children are safe and happy in the childcare center.”
- “Being able to read some words and recognize all the letters in the alphabet.”
- “I hope for my child to continue to succeed academically and work on his attention span as well.”
- “Learning.”
- “I hope that my son has a teacher that cares about the students and not just focused on the financial aspect of the work. I hope my son continues to advance in his learning process.”
- “To learn new material and pass the year.”
- “Having a great school year.”
- “That they will learn as much as they can.”
- “My biggest hope for them is to do the best they can and I’m helping them out with everything I can.”
- “Improving reading and math skills.”
- “That they put forth their best efforts even if they feel like it may be challenging and to always keep pushing.”
- “Being able to receive all the extra help that they might need to stay on task.”
- “Succeeding to the next grade.”
- “I would like her to learn different languages and witness different cultures.”
- “Excelling in every area.”

- “I hope my child receives the education she deserves. I hope she has teachers that really care about children and help her strengthen her strengths and improve on the areas she struggles with.”
- “Achieve all the academic goals, including reading and writing fluently.”
- “I hope my children learn more than what they learned last year! I want their Grammar and writing skills to improve.”
- “Applying themselves and trying their best.”
- “Hopefully they can be successful and absorb all the information the school is providing.”
- “To flourish and grow both academically and socially.”
- “They keep their grades up.”
- “Learning to control anger.”
- “Challenge herself and do the best to her ability.”
- “That they continue to prosper and grow.”
- “To learn what they can. To continue to succeed in everything they set their mind to.”
- “My biggest hope is that they are learning and have great parental/guidance care that I cannot provide throughout the day.”
- “I hope that my children are safe. They stay focused and be all they can be.”
- “I want him to improve on his reading, that is, be able to read more fluently. Be able to retell a story, improve on comprehending ideas and answer questions correctly about the story. Improve on math problems.”
- “Get better at reading and make lots of new friends.”
- “Make friends, build character, learn new things.”
- “Finish elementary school successfully to go to middle school.”
- “For my daughter to read and write at her grade level. For my son to improve his speech.”
- “To have fun and learn new things.”
- “Que aprenda, que haga amigos, que sea una persona con principios.” (That he learns, makes friends, and becomes a person with principles)
- “Que esté en los niveles que debería estar en lectura, escritura y matemáticas.” (That he is at the levels he should be in reading, writing and mathematics.)
- “Pues que tengan la mejor experiencia y que se puedan adaptar a lo que les pongan.” (That they have the best experience and that they can adapt to what they are given.)

- “Adaptacion. Rendimiento. Amor por al escuela.” (Adaptacion, performance and a love for school)
- “Que suban sus calificaciones.” (That their grades improve)