

APPENDIX C

VALIDATION SURVEY

Dear [Respondent Name]:

Thank you very much for completing our recent telephone interview about Parents and Childcare. Your participation in this study has been a valuable contribution toward the successful evaluation of current child care issues and needs. The enclosed money order in the amount of \$20 is a token of our appreciation for your help. The money order has no expiration date and there will be no fee charged to you if you cash it at any post office. Because your time is so valuable, and this study is so important, we want to be sure that every interview has been conducted correctly. Please continue to help us by taking a few minutes to answer the questions in this letter. As soon as you have done so, please mail the letter back to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

1. According to our records your interview was completed on [I Day & Date]. Is that correct?

- YES [GO TO QUESTION 2]
 NO [GO TO QUESTION 6]

2. About how long did that interview take, from the first question to the last one?

ENTER NUMBER: _____ AND / OR _____
HOURS MINUTES

3. At the time of that interview, how many children age 17 or younger lived in your household? _____

4. At the time of that interview, how many children age 5 or younger lived in your household? _____

5. Which of the following best describes your marital status at the time of the interview? [CHECK ONE BOX]

- a. Married and living with your spouse,
b. Not married but living with a partner,
c. Married but not living with your spouse,
d. Separated, divorced, or widowed, and not living with a partner, or
e. Single, never married and not living with a partner?

6. Please indicate any comments about the interview (or the interviewer) that you would like us to be aware of.

Please mail this letter to us in the enclosed envelope. No postage is necessary. Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

Louise Hanson
Study Director

APPENDIX D

RESPONDENTS' COMMENTS FROM VALIDATION SURVEY

Female, interviewed May 28th: "Exceptional loving childcare is the key to our future."

Female, interviewed May 28th: "The questions didn't include anything about providing or teaching proper nutrition to children or the importance of exercise. The number 1 concern for children today is that they are overweight."

Female, interviewed May 29th: "It didn't seem to consider stay-at-home moms."

Female, interviewed May 30th: "I think the interview was a very good idea. Thank you."

Female, interviewed June 2nd: "Some of the questions are not able to understand and interview took too much time. It's always better to send in form and have a look and have conversation."

Female, interviewed June 3rd: "I am not interested in state run or state organized pre-school. I believe it is the responsibility of the parents to choose how they will educate their children at the pre-school level."

Female, interviewed June 4th: "Grandparents and caregivers should definitely receive some type of help for watching children if needed. It's a very tough life now when both parents have to work. Those people on welfare should be made to work and not live off of us! It is a shame but our town is overrun by welfare people. They should be off these roles and looking for employment. They have too many children, we're all taking care of."

Female, interviewed June 6th: "Interview was interesting. I'll look forward to seeing improvements in early childhood education."

Female, interviewed June 7th: "I'm not sure how the questions asked will benefit future children. I think you could get the same or better results if you just asked teachers if they felt the public schools should fund preschools. And they would have answered your questions for free and the money saved could have been spent on the children."

2002 Pennsylvania Family Survey

Female, interviewed June 8th: "The computer randomly picked my 10 month old to be interviewed about. My 5 year old would have yielded more data as he attends pre-k."

Female, interviewed June 9th: "Good research if it is to help working class families. I know I could have used a little help for childcare."

Male, interviewed June 10th: "Thank you for the opportunity for taking this interview. I'm very passionate about the childcare topic, even though my situation is only a part time basis."

Female, interviewed June 11th: "When you mentioned the \$20.00, I couldn't resist."

Female, interviewed June 14th: "Keep up the search, there are a lot of daycares out there that need improvement. It's good to see that someone cares about our children in child care. Thank you."

Female, interviewed June 14th: "I just think it should have been about the older children too, not just the smaller ones."

Female, interviewed June 14th: "We need more parents to get involved with their children's education. Such as if the child's in school. If not, then someone to do more educational activities. We have a lot of children that can't read or write their name."

Male, interviewed June 17th: "To reiterate, our family feels very strongly that society has bypassed the youth and the elderly. We support your efforts to emphasize early childhood programs, education, and general awareness of this most critical of developmental stages. We have selected to have one parent available at all times. We believe in the home being the foundation of a stable, nurturing environment for the child supplemented by a limited, quality pre-school experience, music program and swimming sessions. This decision to dedicate so much of our time and resources to our children's early childhood experience does come with some costs emotionally, socially, and economically as parents. We believe that more efforts to provide parents more time with their children would benefit the children, the families, and society at large. Please keep up all of your efforts. If anything, we would like to see much more emphasis on providing families with more quality time together. In addition, we would like to see funds refocused from early reading programs to funding programs of a more poignant nature. Please refer to the Alliance for childhood research (allianceforchildhood.net)."

Female, interviewed June 18th: "I felt that many of the questions asked could have been interpreted various ways. Also I felt unqualified to answer questions regarding childcare

2002 Pennsylvania Family Survey

arrangements towards the end of the test since I don't have any idea how much reading and interaction goes on in other schools, daycares, etc. I don't feel the results of the test can be accurate given the lack of knowledge from the general public."

Male, interviewed June 18th: "No government programs."

Female, interviewed June 20th: "The interview brought to light the need for good child care programs. I hope the survey will be helpful to our government in deciding how much money to set aside for quality child care programs."

Female, interviewed June 21st: "The \$20 worked! I wouldn't have agreed to stay on the line that long otherwise! Nice gesture."

Female, interviewed June 22nd: "If we as a people bring children into the world and our home, I think it is our 1st responsibility to care for them and not feel the government is responsible. If parents are too poor it is right for the government to help out, but not to any of us should the government push us more than we feel comfortable with."

Female, interviewed June 24th: "The fact that you offered money would definitely make people willing to take the few minutes to participate – a great idea!"

Female, interviewed June 24th: "There was one survey question that was worded to likely skew the response to what the contracting organization (the Governor's office) wanted. It had to do with whether I agree that additional funding/support would be beneficial to children."

Female, interviewed June 24th: "Some of the questions were difficult to answer because they were too vague and didn't allow for shades of agreement or disagreement. Thank you for the opportunity to participate - it was very interesting."

Female, interviewed June 27th: "The interview was way too long and several questions were redundant or required further explanation. Being an elementary teacher I would be interested in hearing more about the study and it's focus and findings."

Female, interviewed June 27th: "This interview was the most purposeful phone survey I've ever participated in. Good luck in your work towards improving the education system and childcare practices. It's a good cause."

2002 Pennsylvania Family Survey

Male, interviewed June 29th: "Childcare that is affordable and of high quality is of great concern to my family. It has been a pleasure participating in your study."

Female, interviewed July 2nd: "Make your questions more simple to answer."

Female, interviewed July 7th: "I would like to see the results of the study and/or data obtained and would also like to see what outcomes were induced by the knowledge gained."

Female, interviewed July 14th (Spanish): "I'm very glad someone is taking the time to help children and parents get more involved in their education."

Female, interviewed July 18th (Spanish): "Vouchers for Private School children, a much needed thing."

Female, interviewed July 21st: "I just want to take time to thank ISR because it is a good way to help out others who doesn't have the extra help."

Female, interviewed July 23rd: "It was very hard to do this long of a survey on the phone with 2 small children in the house."

Female, interviewed July 26th: "Will this research help provide valuable information to help women have better child care options if they need to work? How many surveys before the government does make reforms to help families?"

APPENDIX E

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Correlations Between Demographic Characteristics

	Geographic Location	Household Income	Partner Status	Family Employment Status	Family Size	Child's Ethnicity
Geographic Location	—					
Household Income	-0.10*	—				
Partner Status	0.10*	0.46*	—			
Family Employment Status	-0.08*	-0.48*	-0.73*	—		
Family Size	0.01	0.16*	0.41*	-0.22*	—	
Child's Ethnicity	.02*	0.07*	0.18*	-0.15*	0.06	—
Respondent's Education	-0.11*	0.41*	0.23*	-0.26*	0.04	0.06

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)