

Instruments 2a and 2b: Initial Meeting Questions

- **Initial Meeting Questions**
 - o [Instrument 2a: Professional Partner Group Discussion Questions](#)
 - o [Instrument 2b: Parent Partner Group Discussion Questions](#)

Instrument 2a: Professional Partner Group Discussion Questions

1. Warm-up questions
 - a. What is something that made you laugh this week?
 - b. All of us have a few children we've met across our career who will really stay with us. Who is someone like that for you, and why?
 - c. When you think about your skills and gifts as an early education professional, what would you say is your superpower?
 - d. What is one piece of advice that you'd give to a new professionals just starting out?
 - e. Looking back on your career, what is something you are really proud of?
2. Workforce-related questions
 - a. Share what type of child care or ECE setting you work in and how long you've been there.
 - b. What do you think is a strength of your ECE setting?
 - c. What's one thing you would like to see added or changed at your program?
 - d. What keeps you in your current role? (Probe for compensation, support, colleagues, career development/growth opportunities, environment, etc.)
 - e. When you think of colleagues who have left your programs, what were some of the reasons for this turnover?
 - f. In your experience, what are some things that programs, or systems could do to retain skilled professionals like yourselves? (Probe for compensation, support, planning time/environment, career development, etc.)
 - g. What do you think parents would say they'd like to see added or changed at your program?

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Public Law 104-13) STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BURDEN: Through this information collection, ACF is gathering information for the initial meetings of these Partner Groups in order to identify lived experiences related to early childhood programs and services that will support enhancing state policies and procedures that result in improving the experiences of children and families in accessing ECCE programs and services, as well as improving ECCE professionals' experiences, while working within those same programs and services. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60

minutes per person per meeting of which there will be three. This is a voluntary collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB # is 0970-0531 and the expiration date is 09/30/2025. If you have any comments on this collection of information, please contact Judy Willgren, Office of Early Childhood Development, by email at Judy.Willgren@acf.hhs.gov.

Instrument 2b: Parent Partner Group Discussion Questions

1. Warm-up questions:
 - a. What is something your child did this week that made you laugh?
 - b. What are you enjoying about this stage of parenting? What's something that's challenging right now?
 - c. What is one word you'd use to describe your child? Why did you pick that word?
 - d. Tell us about how your child got their name.
2. ECE setting-related questions
 - a. Share what type of child care your child under 5 is in. Have they always been in this program, or have they had multiple different programs/professionals?
 - b. Tell us about the process of finding a program for your child. Was it easy or difficult to find an opening in a program you liked?
 - c. How did you decide this program was a good fit for your child and family? (probe for whether program quality was evaluated or whether parents were stressed to simply find an opening)
 - d. What is the best part of your child's ECE program?
 - e. Do you feel your child's teachers know them as an individual? What is something they do or have done to respond to your child's unique needs?
 - f. Do you think your child's teachers have helped them grow and learn? Can you think of an example?
 - g. Which staff at your child's ECE program do you talk to on a regular basis?
 - h. What's something you've learned from your child's teacher/caregiver?
 - i. What's one thing you would like to see added or changed at your child's ECE program?

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