

Fremont County Joint School District #215 Collaborative Needs Assessment

September 2020



Overview:

The Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) selected Fremont County Joint School District #215 (FCSD) as a recipient of a portion of the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) to assess the needs and to support early childhood educational development in Fremont County. With an emphasis on collaborative decision making by key school and community stakeholders, we will assess the local early childhood learning systems, resources, and needs of our community. From this information, recommendations will be made, and a strategic plan created.

Governance Structure:

An attempt was made to include key stakeholders in our school district and community. Our governance structure consists of the following:

Byron Stutzman	Superintendent of Fremont County Joint School District #215
Nancy Griffel	Principal of Henry's Fork Elementary
Arcelia Gatica	Home/School Liaison for Spanish Speaking Students
Holly Blair	Developmental Preschool Teacher at Henry's Fork
Lori Sessions	CEO of Grand Peaks Medical and Dental
Jane Call	Representative of Idaho Central Credit Union
David Allen	Representative of BYU-Idaho Early Childhood Special Ed Dept
Connie Day	Island Park Elementary Charter School Administrator/Teacher
Jennifer Reynolds	EICAP Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership-Idaho Falls
DelRay Davenport	Retired Educator--Committee Member--Lead Project Manager

The above team members have met three times virtually between the first of August and the end of September to discuss this grant. Continuous feedback is expected through emails and shared Google Documents.

Goals and Objectives:

- Identify current preschool/daycare services in Fremont County Idaho.
- Determine the hours and days, cost, and location of the current preschool/daycare services offered in Fremont County.
- Determine the type of preschool/daycare services and other early childhood education resources offered in Fremont County.
- Determine the level of training and certification for the current services offered.
- Determine the number of parents of current kindergarten students who used preschool/daycare services, the location of those services, and their perception of the current services offered.
- Determine the reasons (and barriers, if applicable) behind why parents either used the services or did not use the services.
- Determine the perceived needs of preschool/daycare providers, parents of current kindergarten students, and the general patrons of Fremont County in regards to early childhood education.
- Create a strategic plan based upon community needs regarding early childhood education and parental support.

Methodology:

Local demographics were researched and compiled. Daycare and preschool providers in the community were identified and contacted. Surveys were created, using indicators suggested by the IAIEYC and the collaborative team to be shared with Daycare/Preschool service providers, the parents of current kindergarten students, and general school patrons. Methods of disbursement of the survey and of collecting and reporting the data were determined by the collaborative team.

Surveys:

The Daycare/Preschool Provider Survey:

The committee was able to identify 15 different daycare/preschool providers in our county. One worked in the district, another was the administrator/teacher of a charter school, and the remainder ran either daycare or preschool services from their homes. Two of the daycare units serviced primarily children from Spanish speaking homes. Each of the service providers were contacted either by phone or email (or both). All were invited to participate in the survey. Twelve of the 15 were contacted via email with a link to the survey. Eight responded. The service providers were promised anonymity and confidentiality in taking the survey, so we are unable to ascertain which of the providers took the survey, and who did not.

The Kindergarten Parents Survey:

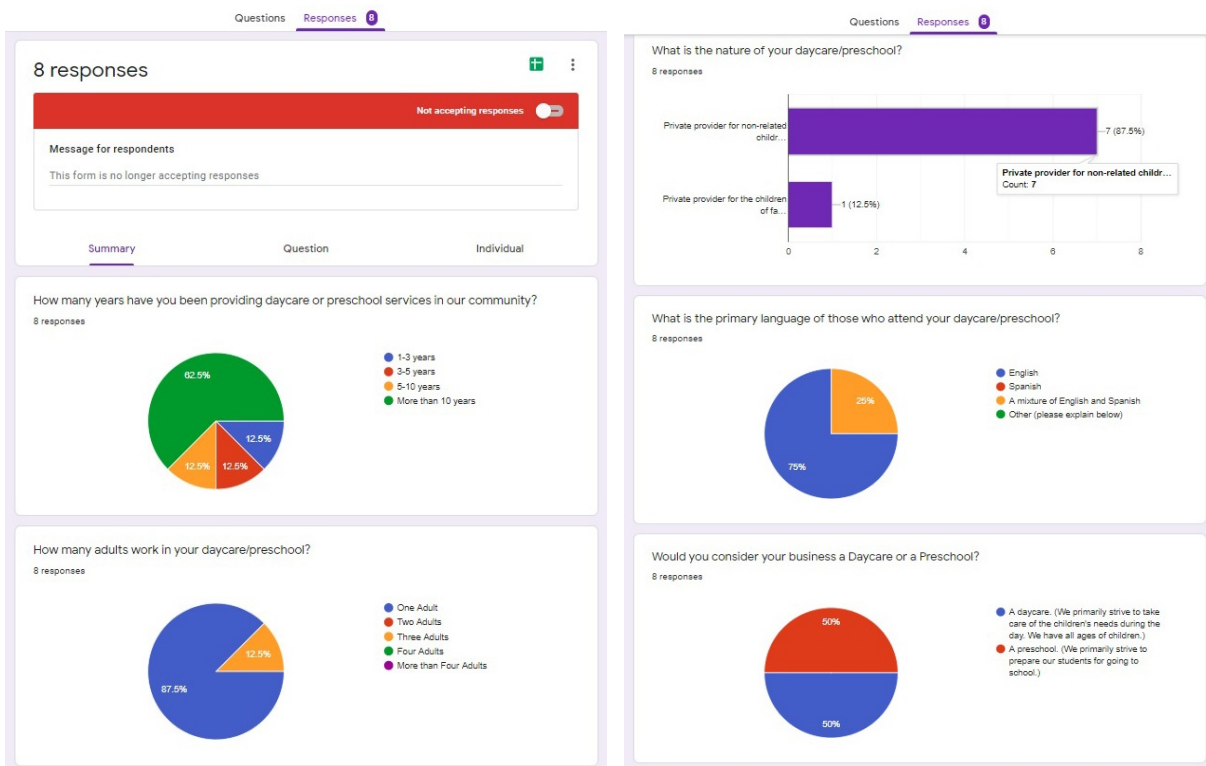
A link was sent through the district information management system to all parents of kindergarten students within the district—which includes students at Henry's Fork Elementary, Teton Elementary, Parker Elementary, and Ashton Elementary. David Allen shared this link with parents from Fremont County who had used the preschool services at BYU-Idaho. Connie Day shared this link with parents from the Charter School of Island Park. Thirty-Two parents responded to this survey.

The Patrons Survey:

A link was shared with patrons through the district information management system and through the District Facebook page. This survey could only be filled out once per email address. Fifty-six patrons responded to this survey.

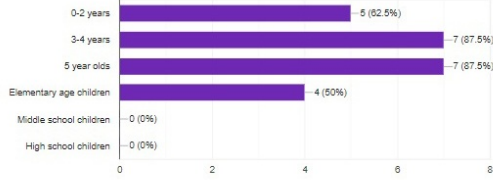
The Surveys Results:

Daycare/Preschool Provider Survey:



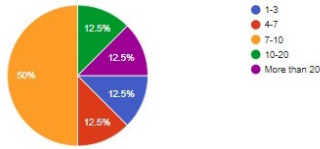
What age group of children do you serve? Check all that apply:

8 responses



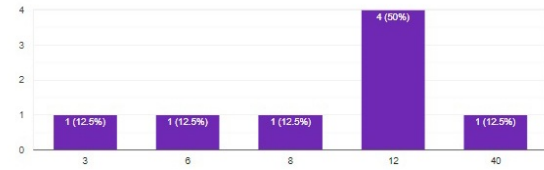
How many children attend your daycare/preschool on a regular basis?

8 responses



How many students could you serve in your daycare/preschool?

8 responses



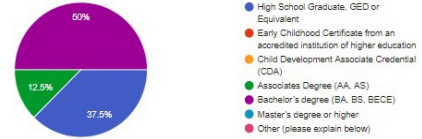
What are your hours of operation?

8 responses

- 8:00-10:00 am
- 7 am to 6:30 pm
- 6:30- 5:30
- Monday-Friday 8-3
- 7:30am - 5:30pm
- 8:00-3:00
- 7am - 5pm
- 9-11

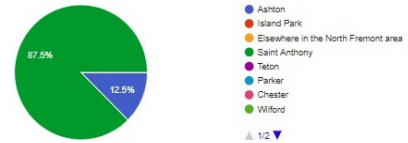
What is your current level of education?

8 responses



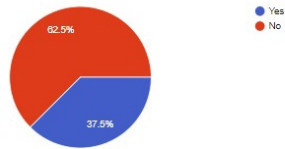
Where is your daycare or preschool facility located?

8 responses



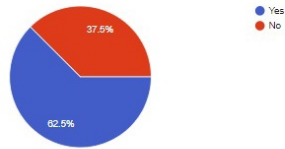
Have you worked with or have been trained by IdahoStars?

8 responses



Have you and your staff received additional training for your daycare/preschool services?

8 responses



What do you charge per child for your daycare/preschool services?

8 responses

- \$75
- \$2.50 per hour
- \$415- \$450 per month full time \$270 part time
- Students that are disabled=free. Peer models=\$40/month
- Monthly rate depends on hours and ages. \$270.00 up to \$450
- \$2.50 per hour
- \$2 per hour
- \$65 per month

16.) How can the Fremont County School District or our local community help you better? (i.e training, scholarships for families that can't afford to pay, educational manipulatives and supplies, preschool books, etc.)

I would love to receive more professional development focused on early childhood education, to be able to have an early childhood developmental screener to come and evaluate each child so that we can better catch children who could benefit from services, access to a facilitator who can help and direct providers/teachers to educational resources, and opportunities to collaborate with other early childhood professionals (i.e. daycare providers and preschool/ kindergarten teachers, developmental specialists, etc.).

Education manipulatives and supplies, preschool books and supplies and training to implement them

I have what I need for my classroom. If we had another preschool teacher at our facility however, we could provide high quality services for more students. I almost always have at least 10 students on my typical peer waiting list.

Definitely help for families with the scholarships. The books and preschool, the supplies would be wonderful

Educational manipulative, supplies, preschool books

I've been operating just fine independently, thank you!

17.) Is there anything else that you would like us to know, or that you would like to explain from the questions above?

I have a bachelors degree in elementary education with an emphasis in early childhood education. I also hold a current teaching license in the state of Wyoming. The additional training I have received is professional development classes to keep my teaching license current. In the last 2 years, I have had a class focusing on early childhood curriculum planning and a class focusing on classroom management.

I feel that transportation is a big concern for some of the families in our community. Many of the homes only have one car and it is needed for the member that goes to work.

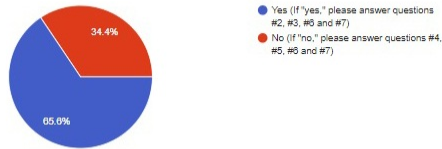
No

Thank you for including me in the survey

Kindergarten Parents Survey:

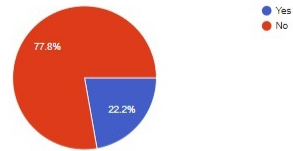
1.) Have you enrolled your child in a Preschool/Daycare prior to this year?

32 responses

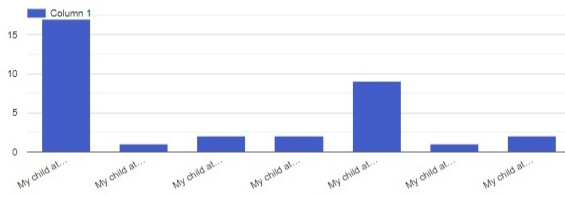


4.) If NO, would you like to have had your child attend a preschool/daycare?

9 responses

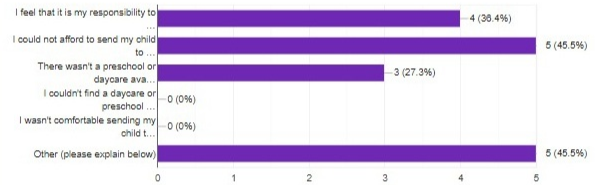


2.) If YES, respond to all that apply:

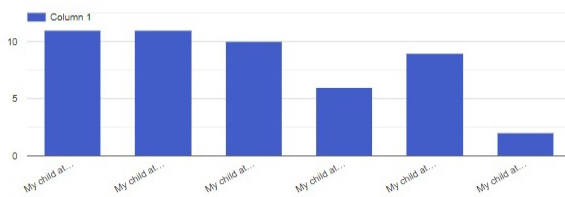


5.) If NO, what were the reasons that you did not have your child attend a preschool/daycare?

11 responses



3.) If YES, please respond to all that apply:



6.) How can the district best support you in early childhood education? (Example, prenatal classes, child development courses, supporting current childcare providers, etc.)

17 responses

- Provide affordable preschool or headstart program
- Providing preschool through the district for other children besides those with special needs
- A few of my kids tried preschool at Ashton elementary and did not enjoy it. It was boring to them. I am glad to hear that a new teacher was hired.
- So how my teacher's taught me it is a way different way than they do here

2.) If YES, respond to all that apply:

Column 1

- My child attended a preschool or daycare in Fremont...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare in Madison...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare in Jefferso...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare in Bonnevil...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare related to ...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare in a forma...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare informally ...
- My child attended preschool in a school district run ...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare somewhere...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare run by a rel...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare that is not ...

3.) If YES, please respond to all that apply:

Column 1

- My child attended preschool/daycare for one year.
- My child attended preschool/daycare for two or mor...
- My child attended a preschool/daycare for two or les...
- My child attended a preschool/daycare for 3 or more...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare for half a d...
- My child attended a preschool or daycare for more t...

4.) If NO, would you like to have had your child attend a preschool/daycare?

- Yes
- No

5.) If NO, what were the reasons that you did not have your child attend a preschool/daycare?

- I feel that it is my responsibility to prepare my child academically.
- I could not afford to send my child to preschool or daycare.
- There wasn't a preschool or daycare available.
- I couldn't find a daycare or preschool that fit my philosophy.
- I wasn't comfortable sending my child to a preschool or a daycare.
- Other (please explain below)

6.) How can the district best support you in early childhood education? (Example, prenatal classes, child development courses, supporting current childcare providers, etc.)

Long answer text

7.) Is there anything else that you would like us to know or to consider or would like to explain from the above questions?

Long answer text

6). How can the district best support you in early childhood education? (Example, prenatal classes, child development courses, supporting current childcare providers, etc.)

Provide affordable preschool or headstart program

Providing preschool through the district for other children besides those with special needs

A few of my kids tried preschool at Ashton elementary and did not enjoy it. It was boring to them. I am glad to hear that a new teacher was hired.

So how my teacher's taught me it is a way different way than they do here

I can't think of anything right now.

I would like a preschool class option at the school for my daughter

Support the parents more and stop saying that us parent say school a daycare

No suggestions

None

Preschool provided by the district

supporting current child care providers and more preschool options

Offering preschool to children that don't need special help

Supporting current daycare providers

Nope

Maybe offering an all day preschool program a few days a week? I would have loved to have had my child in a preschool program, however, I work full time and there is no way a half day schedule would have worked for us.

My children was screened for preschool but passed the assessment. I have adequate child care, so it wasn't a big deal.

7.) Is there anything else that you would like us to know or to consider or would like to explain from the above questions?

No

I teach preschool out of my home, but would not have sent my children to preschool otherwise. I strongly believe children need time at home with their mom prior to attending school and it should not be the government/community's responsibility to provide daycare while parents work. Classes to support parents sounds great! But let's provide more opportunities for kids to be kids at home with a parent! Parents can decide for themselves way they want to do. That's my opinion, as an educator (in public schools for a decade) and parent, and I feel strongly that unbiased surveys would show the same - kids 5 & under benefit more from being home with a parent than being at school or daycare. This desire to support parents actually needs to support THE KIDS.

Please continue to keep kindergarten 4 days a week :).

I did not want to send my child to preschool or day care. I simple just wanted to send him to kindergarten

My child was lucky enough to be babysat by his grandmother. She was great about helping him to learn things such as what he would be learning in preschool/daycare.

give us parents more of a heads up and not just a hour before or 3 hours bcz some parents work and have to figure out daycare they dont have family to help or no family around

No suggestion

None

My child attended a preschool with a certified teacher at an in home setting.

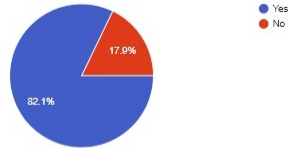
Waterford Upstart Program is a FREE state funded at home via computer preschool program that i enrolled two of my kids in already and have seen great success in using for preparing my child for kindergarten. 15mins a day 5 days a week at home and it fits into our schedule.

N/A

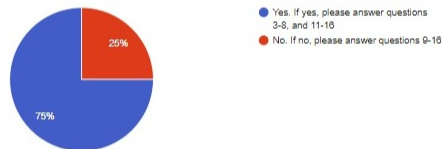
The Patrons Survey:

Questions Responses 50

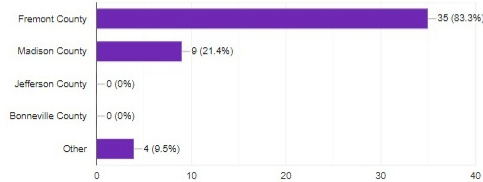
1.) Do you currently have a child or children between 0 and 5 years of age?
56 responses



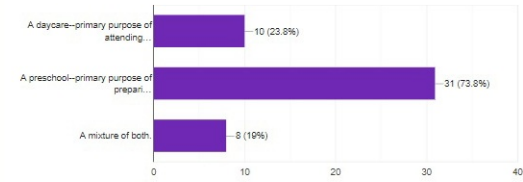
2.) Have you had children attend a daycare or preschool?
56 responses



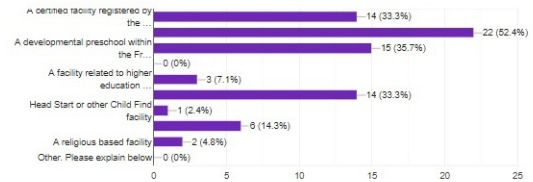
3.) If yes, where did your children attend daycare or preschool? Check all that apply.
42 responses



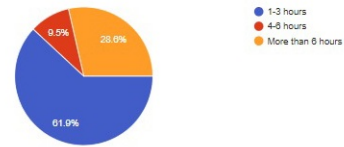
4.) If yes, which type of facility did they attend? Check all that apply:
42 responses



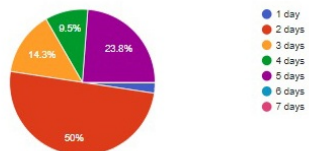
5.) If yes, which type of facility did they attend? Check all that apply:
42 responses



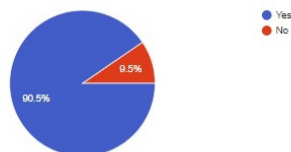
6.) If yes, how many hours a day did you use the facility?
42 responses



7.) If yes, How many days a week did you use the facility?
42 responses



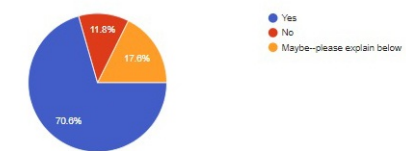
8.) If yes, Did the daycare or preschool provide meals or snacks?
42 responses



9.) If no, what was your reason for not sending your child to a daycare or preschool?
16 responses



10.) If no, would you have sent your child or children to a daycare or preschool if they were more affordable?
17 responses



11.) If no, would you have sent your child to a daycare or preschool if you had transportation available?
18 responses



12.) How could the school district or community support you with early childhood education and development? (i.e. more affordable, transportation, library services, prenatal care, healthcare, educational tools—like preschool books, crayons, etc.)
38 responses

Provide not just educational, but social developmental activities too for my son to learn how to interact more with others. Also, maybe provide more physical/athletic options for the age group for child to join in the county.

I would love to send my child if it was more affordable for me.

It would be nice to have a list of preschools in the area especially if you are new and dont know who teaches preschool.

More preschool options within fremont county! I really wish there was a headstart it's amazing for children!

12.) How could the school district or community support you with early childhood education and development? (i.e. more affordable, transportation, library services, prenatal care, healthcare, educational tools--like preschool books, crayons, etc.)

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More preschool options within fremont county! I really wish there was a headstart it's amazing for children!

Allow more kids into the school's preschool and not just those with developmental delays and IEPs.

Educational material e.g. books

Create a program for children to attend.

It would be great if there was a daycare/preschool that was certified and affordable in Fremont county.

Books crayons

Preschool for neurtypical children

Make a preschool available for all children, not just ones that have special needs

I think most people in the area have concerns with it being affordable.

Affordable options would really be great for our community. Currently my babysitter is unable to watch my children and finding child care for them in Fremont has proved to be very difficult. Madison County also seems to be less affordable. I also think that opportunities to promote early learning would be fantastic. One example may be read 100 books before kindergarten and earn a prize. Materials for those that do not work and would like to do preschool at home would also help our community.

I think it would be a benefit if the district built relationships with the daycare facilities and preschools in our area and provided them with evidence based educational resources that the facility and parents of children attending that facility could use to better educate and help their child learn in a fun way to better prepare them for school.

My child is not old enough to attend preschool yet, but I might be interested in daycare if it was affordable.

Activities for pre school age kids..maybe kits to donate home

More affordable and more educational tools

More hours of preschool maybe daily. Offer physical, occupational, and speech even if they are above 7%. Transportation should be offered to all kids and sibling even if they aren't quite out of the mile range. Toddler labs should be offered in addition to preschool especially for families whom have multiple kids who either qualify for IEP or IFSP with infant toddler.

Accessible preschool options for all.

I would have used an official preschool multiple times a week if I could have afforded it. Instead a friend and I rotated weeks and taught our kids once a week.

Transportation

More affordable preschool education. There are not many options in town.

Expand the current program to serve additional children/families.

More options for preschool besides the developmental preschool

I felt like we were supported well enough. Preschool can be expensive but thankfully my family made it work. I think other families could benefit from more affordable preschool options.

I would love to have a list of what kindergarten teachers expect their students to be able to do, both academically, physically and socially (tie shoes or sip coat)

More preschool options, educational tools, parental training

Affordable, playground, books, early learning,

Preschool supplies

More affordable and available for everyone not just those with disabilities

PAT (Parents as teachers) classes- deliver resources/books to homes and demonstrate how to do developmentally appropriate activities with babies/toddlers/preschoolers We live in a low social-economic community, so free or very affordable toddler and preschool classes would be a huge asset.

Make it know there are programs available! I had no idea the state had a program for 0-3

until my son was 3 and aged out...

More affordable daycare and preschool. I hate feeling like I have to drive 30+ minutes for my kids to get the same opportunities of kids in the city.

Educational tools and affordability

More affordable

These all sound like great things to look into!

Educational tools

Educational tools

13.) What else would help us to understand your needs regarding the needs of our young children in Fremont County?

More preschool options

Preschools in the school system need to be open to more kids.

There is not a certified daycare/preschool in Fremont County. If you want someone that doesn't watch your kids out of their home you have to go to Rexburg and it is expensive.

There are many that say there needs to be a licensed daycare that is not in a home.

One of my personal problems is being able to transport my child from our in home day care to a preschool during the day because I work full time. An option for daycare/preschool within the same facility would be fantastic. I am fortunate enough that my mother in law has a preschool in her home and she will transport my child back to the in home daycare after preschool is over. For people that work full time, preschool is almost not an option due to the lack of facilities that offer both in Fremont County. I think you would have to travel to Madison County for more options like that.

We are lucky to have our kids attending a good daycare and preschool, however, some reports from friends and family in the area seem to think that there is a shortage of options available and the ones that are available are difficult to get into.

Community meeting for parents with young children.

It would be nice if therapies both developmental and mental could be offered in a school setting so kids don't have to miss school to sometimes go all the way to Idaho Falls for therapy. Another thing that would be a good idea is if there could be another daycare offered through the school district. We used to have little cougar daycare and it provided services for teachers, students, and some members of the community so it wasn't so hard

for them to find a babysitter.

I worry that if you begin some sort of Preschool mandate through the state, the current options we use and love will no longer be an option. Don't ruin what we already have by trying to provide an option through the state.

Our community doesn't have a lot to offer to working parents with young children. We miss out on teaching our young children important fundamentals

Many areas provide a preschool for all kids (not just special ed) from their public schools. It would be nice to have this. I sent my oldest to a preschool for a few months because that is what i could afford.

Ask the teachers what they see.

The first year (2018-2019) I had to travel from Ashton to St Anthony due to limited options for preschool in Ashton. The following year a new preschool opened in Ashton which was a great benefit and much more convenient.

The county is greatly lacking in recourses for 0-5 children!

Reason why my child goes to pre school in Rexburg because they provide the best in education, have a huge playground in their backyard, has two classes for age 2.5-4 and 4-5 years old. They makes breakfast, lunch, and snacks. If Fremont county provide this that would be something I would hope for my next child who is going as of February 2021.

A preschool within our elementary would be great

I think it is so important to create opportunities for parents to be involved in children's education and development

N/a

Need someone to teach them since i work and do not always have time

14.) Is there anything that you would like to explain from the above questions?

No

I haven't put my child in preschool because I can't afford what I can do myself. Also, I would prefer the school preschool versus private but it is very difficult to get your child in it.

no

My child went to a preschool facility which we paid for monthly that is run by a licensed

teacher out of her home.

I live in Chester and work full time. I already pay her to watch my kids and don't want her to have to deal with transportation. I also don't know if I have enough money to pay both the day care costs and preschool.

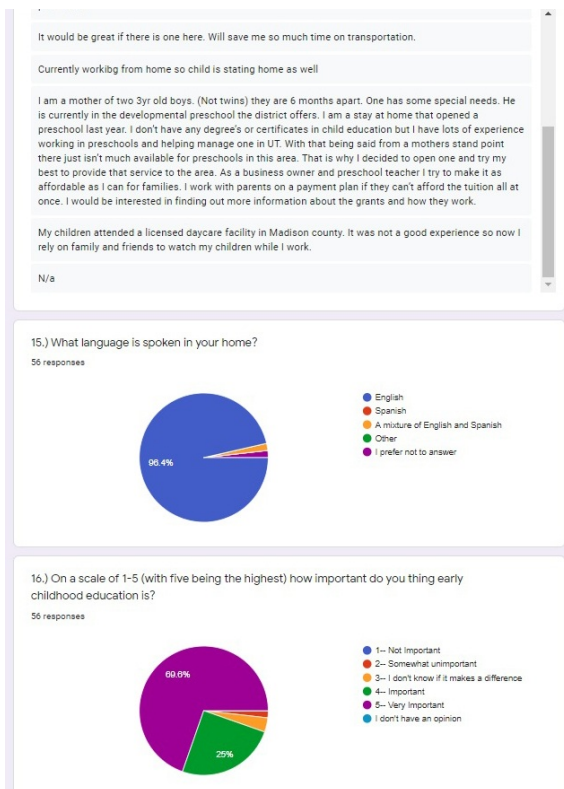
It would be great if there is one here. Will save me so much time on transportation.

Currently working from home so child is staying home as well

I am a mother of two 3yr old boys. (Not twins) they are 6 months apart. One has some special needs. He is currently in the developmental preschool the district offers. I am a stay at home that opened a preschool last year. I don't have any degree's or certificates in child education but I have lots of experience working in preschools and helping manage one in UT. With that being said from a mothers stand point there just isn't much available for preschools in this area. That is why I decided to open one and try my best to provide that service to the area. As a business owner and preschool teacher I try to make it as affordable as I can for families. I work with parents on a payment plan if they can't afford the tuition all at once. I would be interested in finding out more information about the grants and how they work.

My children attended a licensed daycare facility in Madison county. It was not a good experience so now I rely on family and friends to watch my children while I work.

N/a



Key Points:

Comparing results and comments from the three surveys, there are several points made repeatedly. Fremont County does not have a certified, daily, full day daycare or preschool option. Two of the elementary schools—Henry’s Fork Elementary in Saint Anthony, and Ashton Elementary in Ashton—have developmental preschools for students 3 to 5 years of age who qualify with disabilities. There is limited space for “model peers” without disabilities. Of the 15 identified preschools, 12 are preschools run by individual adults from their homes. Of those 12, 5 are registered with the state—as shown by the Idaho Child Care Check—an Idaho H & W website (<https://www.idahochildcarecheck.org>). Currently, there is no regular Headstart Program or Parents as Teacher (PAT) Program in Fremont County. The Infant and Toddler program is available to those who qualify for parents who are aware of this service. The seasonal Headstart Program is utilized.

Of the patrons who responded to the survey and who stated that they had sent their child or children to a preschool or daycare service, 83.3% sent their children to a facility in Fremont County, and 21.4% used a facility in Madison County. (Madison County has 3 Daycare/Preschool services listed—in addition to an early education lab at BYU-Idaho.)

Of the 25% of patrons who answered “no” as to whether they had sent their child or children to a daycare or preschool service, 70% said that they would have used a service if one had been more affordable. Fifty percent said that they would have sent their child if transportation had been provided.

Of the current Kindergarten parents who answered the survey, 65.5% sent their child to an daycare or preschool. Of the 34.4% who did not, 22% would have sent their child to a service if they could have. The major reasons listed by these parents were that they couldn’t afford a service, or that there were none available.

In the daycare providers survey, providers were asked what their capacity for students would be. Seven out of 8 were already at their capacity. Most had been trained by Idaho Stars (62.5), and most had also had additional training (62.5) in regards to early childhood education. Four out of the eight had some way of helping parents who couldn’t afford the cost of their program.

From the data collected by the surveys and the responses of the patrons, current kindergarten parents, and daycare providers, the following needs should be addressed:

- There is a need for more daycare and preschool services in Fremont County.
- There is a need for extended days and extended hours of daycare and preschool in Fremont County.
- There is a need for more affordable daycare and preschool services in Fremont County.
- Patrons would like a preschool within the current public education system.

- Some of the patrons were unable to use the current daycare and preschool services because of transportation issues.
- Parents in Fremont County would benefit from scholarships or other financial aid in sending their children to daycare or preschool facilities.
- There should be greater collaboration between the public schools and private daycare and preschool services (screenings, trainings, etc.).
- Public Schools should do more to make resources available to parents and to daycare and preschool services.
- There needs to be an increased presence of the Headstart, Parents as Teachers, and The Infant Toddler Program in Fremont County.

Demographics:

Demographics--Fremont County						
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	A	B	C	D	E	F
3	Number of Households:	4,309		ALICE 18		
4	Number of Economically Disadvantaged:		13.00%	ALICE 18		
5	Percentage of Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch by school:					
6		AEM	41.00%	FCSD #215		
7		HFE	57.00%	FCSD #215		
8		NFHS	33.00%	FCSD #215		
9		PEM	40.00%	FCSD #215		
10		SFJH	56.00%	FCSD #215		
11		SFHS	46.00%	FCSD #215		
12		TEM	46.00%	FCSD #215		
13	Unemployment Rates:		6.40%	ALICE 18		
14	Percentage of Single Parent Homes: 1191 of 4436		27.00%	suburbanstats.org		
15	Percentage of Unemployment:		2.90%	ALICE 18		
16	Percentage of those not in labor force:		22.20%	ALICE 18		
17	Percentage of part time workers:		11.70%	ALICE 18		
18	Median Household Income:	\$51,806		Datausa 17		
19	Highest percentage of those living in poverty by gender and age: F 25-34		11.20%	Datausa 17		
20	2nd highest percentage of those living in poverty by gender and age: M 6-11		9.40%	Datausa 17		
21	3rd Highest Percentae of those living in poverty by gender and age: F 35-44		7.00%	Datausa 17		
22	Poverty by Race:					
23		White:	63.10%	Datausa 17		
24		Hispanic:	2.45%	Datausa 17		
25	Diversity by Race:					
26		White:	85.1	Census 10		
27		Hispanic:	12.5	Census 10		
28	Number of children ages birth through five, by age and gender:		6.30%	Census 10		
29	Number of children ages under 18:		24.70%	Census 10		
30	Primary languages spoken by families with children at home--Spanish:		9.70%	Census 14-18		
31	Number of students who qualify as homeless in Fremont County Schools:	29		FCSD #215		
32	Number of foster students enrolled in Fremont County Schools 2019-2020:	10		FCSD #215		
33	Number of children with developmental delays or disabilities:		12.00%	FCSD #215		
34	Percentage of children meeting kindergarten readiness standards (Tier 1):		20.00%	ISIP Testing Data FCSD #215		
35	Percentage of mothers who receive pre-natal care in Grand Peaks Service Area:					
36		In First Trimester for first time:	81.00%	Grand Peaks		
37		In Second Trimester for first time:	16.00%	Grand Peaks		
38		In Third Trimester for first time:	3.00%	Grand Peaks		
39						
40						
41						

Demographic information was extracted from the following sources:

Fremont County Joint School District #215 informational database

Fremont County Joint School District #215 ISIP Testing Data

ALICE 18 (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

Census 10, 14-18

Grand Peaks Medical Demographics

Datausa 17 website

suburbanstats.org website

It is our intent to create a strategic plan to address the above needs as assessed by our surveys, the demographics, and our collaborative team's individual research.