



**Head Start Teacher Interview
Spring 2001**

Class ID number: _____

Teacher name: _____

Date: _____

Interviewer: _____

Westat

INTRODUCTION

The Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) is a multi-year study of Head Start families and children and their experiences with the Head Start program. A very important part of the study is to find out about staff and their experiences in Head Start. Your answers will be completely confidential. The survey will take about 25 minutes to complete.

Before we begin, let me read the following to you:

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Do you have any questions before we begin?

A. SCREEN

A1. In this classroom last Fall, we interviewed {NAME}. Is that you?

YES..... 1 (GO TO B1)
NO. 2

A2. When did you become the teacher of this class?

____/____/____
DAY MONTH YEAR

A3. Can you tell me why the previous teacher is no longer teaching this class?

A4. Before you became the teacher of this class, were you teaching in Head Start?

YES..... 1
NO 2 (GO TO A7)

A5. Where were you teaching before you came to this classroom? Were you teaching . . .
(CIRCLE ONLY ONE)

In the same classroom,..... 1
In a different classroom at the same Head Start center, 2
At a different Head Start center operated by the same program, . 3
At a Head Start center operated by a different program, or 4
Somewhere else? 5
(SPECIFY) _____

A6. What was your position at the center or classroom you were in before coming to this classroom?

LEAD TEACHER 1
ASSISTANT TEACHER/TEACHER AIDE 2
PART-TIME SUBSTITUTE TEACHER..... 3
VOLUNTEER..... 4
COORDINATOR/SUPERVISOR (E.G. EDUCATIONAL
COORDINATOR) 5
CENTER DIRECTOR 6
OTHER POSITION 7
(SPECIFY) _____

GO TO B1

A7. Before you became the teacher of this class, were you working . . .

- At an early childhood education or child care center..... 01
- At a family-based child care (family day care)..... 02
- In a kindergarten classroom 03
- In an elementary school classroom..... 04
- In a non-education setting 05 (GO TO B1)
- Not working full-time, or..... 06 (GO TO B1)
- Somewhere else? 07 (GO TO B1)
- (SPECIFY) _____

A8. What was your position at the previous center or classroom?

- LEAD TEACHER 01
- ASSISTANT TEACHER/TEACHER AIDE..... 02
- PART-TIME SUBSTITUTE TEACHER..... 03
- VOLUNTEER..... 04
- COORDINATOR/SUPERVISOR (E.G. EDUCATIONAL
COORDINATOR 05
- CENTER DIRECTOR 06
- OTHER POSITION 07
- (SPECIFY) _____

B. CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about activities in your classroom.

- B1. How often do children in this class do each of the following reading and language activities? Would you say children (READ ITEM) *never, about once a month or less, two or three times a month, once or twice a week, three or four times a week, or every day?*

USE RESPONSE CARD

	Never	Once a month or less	Two or three times a month	Once or twice a week	Three or four times a week	Every day
a. Work on learning the names of the letters.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. Practice writing the letters of the alphabet.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
c. Discuss new words	1	2	3	4	5	6
d. Dictate stories to a teacher, aide, or volunteer.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
e. Work on phonics	1	2	3	4	5	6
f. Listen to you read stories where they see the print (e.g., Big Books) .	1	2	3	4	5	6
g. Listen to you read stories but they don't see the print.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
h. Retell stories.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
i. Learn about conventions of print (left to right orientation, book holding).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
j. Write own name	1	2	3	4	5	6
k. Learn about rhyming words and word families	1	2	3	4	5	6
l. Learn about common prepositions, such as over and under, up and down.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

B2. How often do children in this class do each of the following **math** activities?

USE RESPONSE CARD

	Never	Once a month or less	Two or three times a month	Once or twice a week	Three or four times a week	Every Day
a. Count out loud	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. Work with geometric manipulatives	1	2	3	4	5	6
c. Work with counting manipulatives to learn basic operations.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
d. Play math-related games	1	2	3	4	5	6
e. Use music to understand math concepts	1	2	3	4	5	6
f. Use creative movement or creative drama to understand math concepts.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
g. Work with rulers, measuring cups, spoons, or other measuring instruments.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
h. Engage in calendar-related activities.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

B3. On an average day, how many children are absent from this class? Would you say...

None,	1
One or two,	2
Three or four,	3
Five or six, or	4
Seven or more?	5

B4. About how many children are consistently absent from this class? Would you say...

None,	1
One or two,	2
Three or four, or.....	3
Five or more?.....	4

- B5. At this point in the Head Start year, how would you rate the behavior of children in your class? Would you say...

The group misbehaves very frequently and
is almost always difficult to handle, 1

The group misbehaves frequently and is often
difficult to handle, 2

The group misbehaves occasionally, 3

The group behaves well, or 4

The group behaves exceptionally well?..... 5

- B6. Please tell me the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements on teaching. Tell me whether you *strongly disagree*, *disagree*, *neither agree nor disagree*, *agree*, or *strongly agree*.

USE RESPONSE CARD

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a. I really enjoy my present teaching job.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. I am certain that I am making a difference in the lives of the children I teach.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. If I could start over, I would choose teaching again as my career.	1	2	3	4	5

- B7. In some Head Start classrooms, special efforts are made to make the transition into kindergarten less difficult for children. Which of the following activities are done in your classroom?

	YES	NO
a. I or someone at the Head Start program phone or send home information about the kindergarten program to parents.....	1	2
b. Preschoolers spend some time in a kindergarten classroom	1	2
c. Parents and children visit kindergarten prior to the start of the school year	1	2
d. Our program helps arrange for parents and children to visit the kindergarten for orientation prior to the start of the school year	1	2
e. Other transition activities (PLEASE DESCRIBE) _____	1	2

- B8. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements on children's preparation for school. Tell me whether you *strongly disagree*, *disagree*, *neither agree nor disagree*, *agree*, or *strongly agree*.

USE RESPONSE CARD

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a. Attending preschool for example, nursery, prekindergarten, or Head Start is very important for success in kindergarten.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Children who begin formal reading and math instruction in preschool will do better in elementary school	1	2	3	4	5
c. Parents should make their children know the alphabet before they start kindergarten	1	2	3	4	5
d. Most children should learn to read in kindergarten	1	2	3	4	5
e. Parents need help in learning how to teach their children how to read	1	2	3	4	5
f. Parents should set aside time every day for their kindergarten children to practice schoolwork.....	1	2	3	4	5
g. Homework should be given to kindergarten children almost every day	1	2	3	4	5
h. Parents should read to their children and play counting games at home regularly.....	1	2	3	4	5

- B9. Is a specific curriculum or combination of curricula used in your program?

YES, SPECIFIC CURRICULUM 1
 YES, COMBINATION 2
 NO 3 (GO TO C1)

- B10. If your principal curriculum has a name, what is that name?
 (CIRCLE ONLY ONE)

High Reach 01
 High/Scope 02
 Montessori 03
 Bank Street 04
 Creative Curriculum 05
 Creating Child Centered Classrooms – Step by Step 06
 Curiosity Corner – Johns Hopkins 07
 Scholastic Curriculum 08
 Other 09

(SPECIFY) _____

B11. Do you like your curriculum?

YES..... 1
NO 2

IF NEW TEACHER, GO TO C1. ELSE GO TO B12.

B12. Since our interview with you last Fall, have you received a degree, certificate, or license?

YES..... 1
NO 2 (GO TO BOX
AFTER B13)

B13. What type of degree, certificate, or license did you receive? (CIRCLE ONLY ONE)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) DEGREE PROGRAM 01
TEACHING CERTIFICATE 02
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING DEGREE 03
BACHELOR'S DEGREE 04
GRADUATE DEGREE (MASTER'S, PH.D., OR ED.D) 05
OTHER 06
(SPECIFY) _____

END INTERVIEW

FOR NEW TEACHERS ONLY

C. TEACHER BELIEFS

- C1. I'm going to read some statements that some teachers have made about how children in Head Start should be taught and managed. Please tell me whether each statement agrees or disagrees with your personal beliefs about good teaching practice in Head Start. Tell me whether you *strongly disagree*, *disagree*, *neither agree nor disagree*, *agree*, or *strongly agree*.

USE RESPONSE CARD

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a. Head Start classroom activities should be responsive to individual differences in development.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. Each curriculum area should be taught as a separate subject at separate times	1	2	3	4	5
c. Children should be allowed to select many of their own activities from a variety of learning areas that the teacher has prepared (writing, science center, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
d. Children should be allowed to cut their own shapes, perform their own steps in an experiment, and plan their own creative drama, art, and writing activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. Students should work silently and alone on seatwork	1	2	3	4	5
f. Children in Head Start classrooms should learn through active explorations	1	2	3	4	5
g. Head Start teachers should use treats, stickers, or stars to encourage appropriate behavior.....	1	2	3	4	5
h. Head Start teachers should use punishments or reprimands to encourage appropriate behavior	1	2	3	4	5
i. Children should be involved in establishing rules for the classroom.....	1	2	3	4	5
j. Children should be instructed in recognizing the single letters of the alphabet, isolated from words	1	2	3	4	5
k. Children should learn to color within predefined lines.....	1	2	3	4	5
l. Children in Head Start classrooms should learn to form letters correctly on a printed page	1	2	3	4	5
m. Children should dictate stories to the teacher	1	2	3	4	5
n. Children should know their letter sounds before they learn to read.....	1	2	3	4	5
o. Children should form letters correctly before they are allowed to create a story	1	2	3	4	5

FOR NEW TEACHERS ONLY

D. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Finally, I have some more questions about you.

D1. In total, how many years have you been teaching including all grades and preschool?

NUMBER OF YEARS: _____

D2. How many of those years have you been teaching Head Start as either lead or assistant teacher?

NUMBER OF YEARS: _____

D3. Do you have any children living in your household who attend Head Start now?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D4. Did any child who lived in your household in the past attend Head Start?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D5. What is the highest grade or year of school that you completed?
(CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE.)

UP TO 8TH GRADE	01	}	(GO TO D11)
9TH TO 11TH GRADE	02		
12TH GRADE BUT NO DIPLOMA	03		
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/EQUIVALENT	04		
VOC/TECH PROGRAM AFTER HIGH SCHOOL BUT NO VOC/TECH DIPLOMA	05		
VOC/TECH DIPLOMA AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.....	06		
SOME COLLEGE BUT NO DEGREE	07	}	(GO TO D6)
ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.....	08		
BACHELOR'S DEGREE	09		
GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL BUT NO DEGREE	10		
MASTER'S DEGREE (MA, MS)	11		
DOCTORATE DEGREE (PHD, EDD)	12		
PROFESSIONAL DEGREE AFTER BACHELOR'S DEGREE (MEDICINE/MD; DENTISTRY/DDS; LAW/JD/LLB; ETC.)	13		

D6. In what field did you obtain your highest degree?

CHILD DEVELOPMENT OR DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY . 1
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 2
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION 3
OTHER FIELD (SPECIFY) 4

D7. Did your field include 6 or more college courses in early childhood education or child development?

YES..... 1 (GO TO D9)
NO 2

D8. Have you completed 6 or more college courses in early childhood education or child development since you finished your degree?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D9. What is the name of the college or university where you completed your highest degree?

NAME OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: _____

D10. In what city and state is the (college/university) located?

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

D11. Do you have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D12. Do you have a state-awarded preschool certificate?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D13. Do you have a teaching certificate or license?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D14. Do you have any other job-related licenses?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D15. Are you currently enrolled in any additional teacher-related training or education, including post-secondary school degrees, graduate degrees, etc.? (CIRCLE ONLY ONE.)

NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED..... 1
CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA)
DEGREE PROGRAM..... 2
TEACHING CERTIFICATE 3
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING DEGREE 4
BACHELOR'S DEGREE 5
GRADUATE DEGREE (MASTER'S, PH.D., OR ED.D.) 6
OTHER 7
(SPECIFY) _____

D16. Are you currently a member of a professional association for early childhood education, such as NAEYC, NHSA, NEA?

YES..... 1
NO 2

D17. What is your total annual salary (before taxes) as a teacher for the current school year?

\$____, ____ PER YEAR

D18. How many months of the year does this salary cover?

NUMBER OF MONTHS: _____

D19. How many hours per week does this salary cover not including overtime?

HOURS PER WEEK: _____

D20. What is your gender?

MALE 1
FEMALE 2

D21. In what year were you born? 19_____

D22. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin?

YES..... 1
NO 2 (GO TO D24)

D23. Which one of these best describes you...

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, | 1 |
| Puerto Rican, | 2 |
| Cuban, or | 3 |
| Another Spanish/Hispanic/Latino group? | 4 |
| (SPECIFY) | |

D24. What is your race? You may name more than one if you like.
(CIRCLE ALL THAT ARE MENTIONED.)

- | | |
|--|----|
| a. WHITE | 01 |
| b. BLACK, AFRICAN AMERICAN, OR NEGRO | 02 |
| c. AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
(SPECIFY) | 03 |
| d. ASIAN INDIAN | 04 |
| e. CHINESE | 05 |
| f. FILIPINO | 06 |
| g. JAPANESE | 07 |
| h. KOREAN | 08 |
| i. VIETNAMESE | 09 |
| j. ASIAN (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED) | 10 |
| k. NATIVE HAWAIIAN | 11 |
| l. GUAMANIAN OR CHAMORRO | 12 |
| m. SAMOAN | 13 |
| n. OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER | 14 |
| (SPECIFY) | |
| o. ANOTHER RACE | 15 |
| (SPECIFY) | |

END INTERVIEW