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Full Survey Results – "A Time to Learn, A Time to Grow: California Parents Talk About Summertime And Summer Programs"

"A Time to Learn, A Time to Grow" is based on a survey including a representative sample of 1,204 California residents who are parents of children aged 5 to 15. Interviews were conducted from September 29 to October 14, 2009, and respondents had a choice of completing the interview in English or Spanish. The margin of error for the study is plus or minus 2.82 percentage points, however, it is higher when comparing subgroups or question items that were not asked of all respondents. The survey was preceded by four focus groups conducted in Fresno, Oakland, Los Angeles and San Jose, California.

	Percent
S1. Thinking about this past summer, overall how would you compare it to the previous summer, that is, the summer of 2008? Would you say that this summer was more enjoyable for you, less enjoyable or about the same?	
More enjoyable	27
Less enjoyable	28
About the Same	44
Don't know	1
1. Thinking about summertime compared to the school year, which time would you say is the hardest to make sure your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year old child is well taken care of and has interesting things to do?...	
The summer months	51
The hours after school	15
The weekend during the school year	16
[DO NOT READ] Never have to struggle	10
[DO NOT READ] All equally a struggle	5
Don't know	1
1a. And still thinking about your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year old child, what worries you most about how they spend their free time during the summer? [RANDOMIZE ANSWERS]	
They will not be safely supervised and might get into trouble	16
They will not keep up with educational activities and fall behind in school	25
They will not spend enough time outdoors doing exercise	21
They will not have enough to do and will get bored	24
(VOL) None of these/Something else	13
Don't know	1
2. Thinking about this past summer compared to the summer of 2008, would you say it was easier to find activities for your child to do this summer, more difficult to find activities or it was about the same?	
Easier	17
More difficult	22
About the same	59
Don't know	2

	Percent
3. Overall, how many different organized activities or summer programs, if any, did your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year old child participate in this past summer?	
0	30
1	28
2	21
3	10
4	4
5	3
6	1
7	1
8	*
9	1
Other	1
4a. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... spends time relaxing and having fun	
Absolutely essential	46
Important but not essential	49
Not important	5
Don't know	*
4b. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... spends time doing academics so [HE/SHE] does not fall behind in school	
Absolutely essential	58
Important but not essential	34
Not important	8
Don't know	*
4c. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... does some creative activities like arts and crafts, dance or music	
Absolutely essential	40
Important but not essential	50
Not important	9
Don't know	*
4d. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... spends time doing sports or other athletic activities	
Absolutely essential	42
Important but not essential	52
Not important	6
4e. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... spends time outdoors, [such as in local parks and playgrounds]	
Absolutely essential	47
Important but not essential	46
Not important	7
Don't know	*

	Percent
4f. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... takes some trips to museums or other educational places	
Absolutely essential	41
Important but not essential	51
Not important	8
Don't know	*
4g. Develops [HIS/HER] own interests and hobbies	
Absolutely essential	57
Important but not essential	40
Not important	2
Don't know	*
4h. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... spends time doing church-based activities or activities focused on reinforcing your religious faith	
Absolutely essential	42
Important but not essential	37
Not important	20
Don't know	*
4i. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... does fun activities that helped enrich [HIS/HER] learning?	
Absolutely essential	56
Important but not essential	40
Not important	4
Don't know	*
4j. Thinking about summer time when your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] child is not in school, how important is it to you that [HE/SHE]... Spends more time with you	
Absolutely essential	63
Important but not essential	35
Not important	2
Don't know	*
4Aa. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Time for relaxing and having fun" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	88
No	11
Don't know	1
4Ab. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Time for doing academics so [HE/SHE] does not fall behind in school" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	61
No	36
Don't know	2

	Percent
4Ac. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Creative activities like arts and crafts, dance or music" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	78
No	21
Don't know	1
4Ad. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Time doing sports or other athletic activities" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	85
No	15
Don't know	1
4Ae. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Outdoor time [such as in local parks and playgrounds]" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	84
No	14
Don't know	1
4Af. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Trips to museums or other educational places" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	59
No	40
Don't know	1
4Ag. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Time to develop [HIS/HER] own interests and hobbies" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	77
No	21
Don't know	2
4Ah. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "church-based activities or activities focused on reinforcing your religious faith" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	47
No	52
Don't know	1
4Ai. And did your child's summer program(s) offer "Fun activities that that helped enrich [HIS/HER] learning" or not? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Yes	83
No	15
Don't know	2

	Percent
5. Thinking about all of your child's summer programs combined, how long during the summer did the programs run? Would you say they ran for the whole summer, more than half of the summer, less than half but more than a few weeks or a few weeks or less? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Whole summer	27
More than half	32
Less than half, more than a few weeks	20
A few weeks or less	21
Don't know	*
6. And would you say that program was an all day program, a half a day program or just a few hours or less a day? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
All day	30
Half a day	38
Few hours or less a day	30
[VOLUNTEERED: OVERNIGHT CAMP]	*
Don't know	1
6a. And overall how would you rate the summer programs that your child attended this summer in terms of quality? [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Excellent	39
Good	53
Fair	7
Poor	1
Don't know	1
7a. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... There were no affordable programs that I thought were good for my child [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	34
Minor reason	20
Not a reason at all	45
Don't know	1
7b. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... There were no programs that fit my familys schedules [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	20
Minor reason	25
Not a reason at all	52
Don't know	1
7c. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... There were no programs that were age-appropriate for my child [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	20
Minor reason	16
Not a reason at all	61
Don't know	3

	Percent
7d. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... There were no high-quality programs for my child to participate in [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	23
Minor reason	21
Not a reason at all	54
Don't know	2
7e. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... I didnt really trust the people running the summer programs in our area [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	16
Minor reason	16
Not a reason at all	67
Don't know	1
7f. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... I had someone who could watch my child, so a summer program was not really necessary [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	22
Minor reason	23
Not a reason at all	53
Don't know	1
7g. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... I wanted my child to spend time with me and my family instead [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	38
Minor reason	32
Not a reason at all	29
Don't know	*
7h. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... I wanted my child to have a relaxing summer without many planned activities [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	16
Minor reason	37
Not a reason at all	45
Don't know	1
7i. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... My child did not want to participate in a summer program [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	19
Minor reason	26
Not a reason at all	54
Don't know	1

	Percent
7j. Please tell me if this is a reason why your [INSERT AGE OF CHILD] year-old child did not attend a summer program this past summer... I didnt know enough about the summer programs in my area [Base: Parents whose child did NOT participate in a summer program]	
Major reason	30
Minor reason	24
Not a reason at all	46
Don't know	1
8a. Please tell me if this is true for you or not...There was a summer program I was interested in, but it filled up too quickly, and there was no room for my child	
True	21
Not true	79
Don't know	1
8b. Please tell me if this is true for you or not...There was a summer program I was interested in, but because my family's economic finances changed this year, we thought we could not afford it	
True	44
Not true	55
Don't know	*
8c. Please tell me if this is true for you or not...There was a summer program I was interested in that was offered last year but not this year	
True	22
Not true	75
Don't know	3
8d. Please tell me if this is true for you or not...I wish I knew of more good summer programs in my area that fit my familys budget	
True	65
Not true	35
Don't know	1
8e. Please tell me if this is true for you or not...There are no really high quality summer programs in my area for my child to participate in	
True	25
Not true	72
Don't know	3
9a. Please tell me if you agree with this statement... The summer programs were at convenient locations for me [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	59
Somewhat agree	30
Somewhat disagree	6
Strongly disagree	5
Don't know	*

	Percent
9b. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...The summer programs had hours that worked well with my and my familys schedule [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	66
Somewhat agree	27
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know	*
9c. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...The summer programs were run by a staff that I trusted [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	73
Somewhat agree	24
Somewhat disagree	2
Strongly disagree	*
Don't know	*
9d. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...The summer programs my child attended were of good quality and well run by people who are knowledgeable [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	69
Somewhat agree	25
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	*
9e. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...The summer programs were my childs favorite part of the summer [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	42
Somewhat agree	36
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	2
9f. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...The summer programs really just supervised my child and did not involve (him/her) in any interesting or educational activities [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	8
Somewhat agree	13
Somewhat disagree	21
Strongly disagree	57
Don't know	1
9g. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...The summer programs helped prepare [HIM/HER] for school this year [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	34
Somewhat agree	38
Somewhat disagree	16
Strongly disagree	10
Don't know	2

	Percent
9h. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...If my child was not in these summer programs, there would have been no one to keep an eye on [HIM/HER] [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	11
Somewhat disagree	16
Strongly disagree	55
Don't know	*
9i. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...I would send my [INSERT AGE] year old child to these summer programs again next year [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	71
Somewhat agree	21
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know	1
9j. Please tell me if you agree with this statement...It is difficult to find the right summer program for my child [Base: Parents whose child participated in a summer program]	
Strongly agree	18
Somewhat agree	21
Somewhat disagree	27
Strongly disagree	34
Don't know	1
Thinking for a moment about your child(ren) under 5 years of age, how important is it to have an age-appropriate program available for your child that runs during the summer? [Base: Parents who have a child under the age of 5]	
Very important	56
Somewhat important	25
Not very important	14
Not at all important	4
Don't know	1
11. Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right:	
These days, children get more than enough academics during the school year, so they should spend their time in the summer doing other things that capture their interest	48
During the summer children might lose what they are learning in school so they should spend their time in activities that focus on academic skills	47
Don't know	4
13. Thinking about next summer, which comes closer to describing the ideal summer program for your [INSERT AGE] year old child:	
One that focuses on academics and only has a little time for recreational activities	11
One that has a variety of activities and also includes academics	76
One that is all recreational and does not spend time on academics	12
Don't know	1

	Percent
14. Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right:	
The best way for my [INSERT AGE] child to learn during the summer is to spend some time in a classroom going over what they have learned in school to prepare [him/her] for the next grade	25
The best way for my [INSERT AGE] child to learn during the summer is to let them participate in outdoor activities and explore new things that they may not get to do in school, even if it is not necessarily academic	72
Don't know	3
15. What do you think is the best way to help out working families in California next summer:	
Increase the number of affordable, quality summer programs so all parents can afford them, even if it means people have to pay higher taxes	46
Not raise taxes even though some families may not be able to send their child to quality programs next summer	47
Don't know	6
DEMOGRAPHICS	
Gender	
Male	45
Female	55
And how many of these children are between the ages of 5 and 15?	
1	48
2	36
3	11
4+	4
And how many of these children are under the age of 5?	
0	69
1	25
2	5
3+	1
Is your @ child between... [Base: Asked of parents whose child is between 5 and 15]	
The ages of 5_8	54
The ages 9_12	13
The ages of 13_15	33
And is this child male or female?	
Male	52
Female	48

	Percent
Are you married, LIVING as married, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?	
Married	73
Living as married	6
Divorced	7
Separated	3
Widowed	2
Never marriedSingle	8
Don't know	*
Are you NOW employed full-time, part-time, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?	
Full_time	58
Part_time	13
Retired	3
Not employed	20
[VOL.] Homemaker	6
[VOL.] Student	*
[VOL.] Disabled	1
Don't know	*
Including yourself, how many people are there living in your household?	
1	*
2	4
3	22
4	38
5	23
6+	13
What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?	
None, or grade 1_8	4
High school incomplete [grades 9_11]	7
High school graduate [grade 12 or GED certificate]	20
Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school	6
Some college, no 4_year degree	25
College graduate [B.S., B.A., or other 4_year degree]	26
Post_graduate training or professional schooling after colle	12
Don't know	*
Are you, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?	
Yes	37
No	63
Would you consider yourself white or black Hispanic/Latino? [Base: Asked of those who identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino]	
White	54
Black	13
Don't know	22

	Percent
What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race? [Base: Asked of those who do not identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino]	
White	66
BlackAfrican_American	10
Asian	20
Other or mixed race (SPECIFY)	2
Don't know	*
Thinking of the last 12 months, that is since September of last year (2008), have you or someone in your family experienced a change in employment status, such as a job loss, salary reduction, reduction in working hours or not?	
Yes	50
No	50
Don't know	*
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a...	
Republican	23
Democrat	40
Independent, OR	22
Something else	11
Don't know	3
As of today, do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party? [Base: Asked of Independents]	
Republican	19
Democrat	40
[VOL.] Neither	38
Don't know	2
Im going to read some ranges of annual household income. Please stop me when I read the one that best describes your tot	
Under \$15,000	9
\$15,000 to under \$25,000	9
\$25,000 to under \$35,000	9
\$35,000 to under \$50,000	12
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	15
\$75,000 or more	37
Don't know	2
Do you currently, or have you ever, received public assistance such as welfare or food stamps?	
Yes	23
No	76
Don't know	*