



# Community Engagement Report: Parent Interviews

SEPTEMBER 2022 

Summary of Takeaways  
and Recommendations



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## Key Takeaways

- The concept of the “early childhood education system” is challenging for many parents to grapple with on their own.
- Parents recognize the need for their children to access quality education to reach their goals, but many barriers exist in obtaining said “quality” education.
- Individual, institutional and systemic barriers need to be addressed to ensure families and children are supported and thriving.
- Parental engagement in their children’s learning is critical in addressing early childhood education and should be supported by the early childhood system.
- School structures and environments are critical in setting up children for success.
- Delay, disconnection and lack of resources is the major challenge that parents and children face in navigating the early childhood education system.
- Daycares are inaccessible and expensive for families.
- A lack of individualized student support is a major issue that negatively impacts children.

# Recommendations

- Popular education strategies are needed to help parents connect their own personal experiences with the larger structures and institutions making up the early childhood education system.
- Additional and more robust research is needed to better understand parents' perspectives, experiences and attitudes regarding early childhood education in Middle Tennessee.
- Blueprint's work should be parent-guided/led, particularly by parents most impacted by educational inequities.
- Early childhood education institutions, including daycares and schools, should communicate and engage with parents more regularly and intentionally.
- Schools and daycares should shift practices, programming and policies to create more supportive structures and environments for students and their families.
- Resources should be easily accessible and provided without delays to families and children who need them.
- Resources should be culturally and linguistically-responsive to all families with children in the early childhood education system.
- Daycares should be accessible, low-cost and equitable.
- Targeted and individualized student support should be provided to all students, particularly those students from marginalized communities.



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