

Blazing Trails Compiled Annual Program Survey

6- 2016

We had 55 responses from parents this year which is a significant increase over previous years. Thank you to all who responded!

1. Blazing Trails keeps me informed about program schedules and activities.

Absolutely 39	Mostly 15	Somewhat 1	Could be better	No
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Please add comments or suggestions here:

- Email is the best of updates.
- I never found out what the schedule for kids is like.
- Don't know :(
- Most of the time our child tells us what he does there. A day schedule of the typical choices at the beginning of the year would be helpful.
- Sometimes notifications next to the sign-out book slip me. I didn't see the lice notification until late that week. An email would've been good.

We were not able to have our family Orientation last fall because of the strike. That is when we walk families through a condensed version of our afternoon. Also, our specific daily schedules are posted on the NW wall of the Den (our main classroom) and a general schedule is in the Handbook.

We have a Facebook page that gets updated with information. Also, you can sign up to receive our monthly newsletter either by email or a hard copy left in your parent file.

2. Regarding policies and invoice procedures (as described in the family handbook), I get my questions answered in a timely manner.

Absolutely 50	Mostly 5	Somewhat	Could be better	No
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Comments/Suggestions:

- Though late fees seem too often.

Unless otherwise arranged with our Director, late fees are assessed and sent out around the 16th of each month. If you know that you are going to be paying late, please make sure to talk to our office staff to avoid getting late fees.

- Auto-pay would be very welcome.
- I still rely on US Post, however, now the emphasis is on families printing out documents at home, which is sometimes problematic for us.

Auto-pay options could be very useful, we agree. Our challenge is that we'd have to store your card number and keep it secure. We haven't found an option yet that is both affordable AND is secure enough for us. Please, feel free to talk with Jennifer more about this.

When you register with us, you get the option to have your invoice emailed, snail-mailed or put into your parent file. You can double check with our office if you want to make a change as to how you receive your invoice. Remember that we don't need a copy of your invoice with your payment.

3. Communication between B.T. Administrators and my family is effective.

Absolutely 45	Mostly 10	Somewhat	Could be better	No
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Comments/Suggestions:

- Separated parents – makes communication challenging!
- Exemplary!
- I appreciate your prompt email correspondence!

Communication can be challenging. Please, let us know if you have ideas that could help your personal situation and we'll happily do our best.

4. I am greeted by a staff member when I enter Blazing Trails.

Absolutely 33	Mostly 19	Somewhat 3	Could be better	No
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- [Absolutely] in the PMs. [Somewhat] Not typically in the early AMs as staff are either in the office or in the kitchen.

We understand how important it is for parents to know that WE know their child is here in the morning. We are committed to greeting everyone. If we haven't made eye contact or said, "Good morning!" please, make sure you get our attention.

I feel that the staff is friendly and approachable.

Absolutely 45	Mostly 9	Somewhat 1	Could be better	No
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Comments/Suggestions:

- ☺Always friendly
- I Love them all ♥
- About ¾ staff smile or say [hello], ¼ definitely don't.
- Your staff is the best!
- We love everyone. We feel so blessed to have BT.
- I love it when teachers offer a little story from the day or tell me about anything I need to address with my child later (behavior).
- Always friendly!
- Sometimes the staff is busy cleaning/helping other kids. They don't always greet me, but are always nice.

Our adviser pointed out that some of us may be overly task-oriented. Our plan is to work toward a warmer, friendlier atmosphere, for the kids as well as anyone entering BT.

5. I feel I have a positive working partnership with BT Staff.

Absolutely 49	Mostly 6	Somewhat	Could be better	No
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Comments/Suggestions:

- It's been the best professional & community experiences with my children.
- Christy is great at engaging the raccoons!

6. My family feels safe and included while at Blazing Trails.

Absolutely 50	Mostly 5	Somewhat	Could be better	No
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Comments/Suggestions:

- I love BT. My kids love being here!
- Yes. You guys are great. I would die without you.
- So do I. ☺ When I come to rest in the office with Rita and Mckinsey.
- Some issues with being picked on by bigger kids, but same is true at school.

The issue of bullying is critically important and is addressed in our mission statement. 'Our Mission is to provide a safe, diverse childcare environment dedicated to respectful communication...' Also, the reasons we have rules are posted on the west wall of the Den; 'to keep feelings... bodies...and property safe.'

It's critical to remind children to tell a teacher *each time* they feel bullied, so that we can address it each time. If we know what dynamics create certain problems, we can better support children in understanding their own power and influence in any given situation.

If you have information and/or suggestions around bullying issues, please let us know as soon as possible.

7. Blazing Trails strives to support kids in learning life skills. Please rate the following by how well you think BT is meeting your child(ren)'s needs.

	Extremely well	Very well	OK	Not well	Not at all	Don't Know
Social/Communication	27	23	3			1
Coping Skills/Emotional Management	23	24	6			1
Basic Skills (tying shoes, zipping coat)	18	17	7			12
Cleaning (sweeping, washing tables)	21	16	10			6
Organizing/Time Management	15	17	10	1		11
Quantitative skills (measurement, fractions, time)	12	17	8	1		14
Reading	20	22	4			8
Listening	29	18	6			1
Problem solving	26	18	8			2
Cooperation	34	15	3	1		1
Responsibility	30	19	3	1		1
Empathy	29	20	3			2

Comments/Suggestions:

- I'm not sure on this [life skills] as I am pretty quick to drop off and pick up. What I see in the classroom on posters is great!
- Thank you!
- Don't know enough about what you do to count.
- Thank you so much for your patience with my son and teaching him to be friendly and cooperative. I'm always greeted with a smile and a hello. He has learned so much from your various programs, and all of your staff work tirelessly to continue that path. Thank you again!
- We are so grateful for all you do. Our kids love this program. Thank you!
- Thanks for All You Do!
- I think you guys do a great job and I appreciate your program. Thank you for caring for my child :)
- I love B.T. Thank you!! Rita is the Best
- Thanks for all you do! :)
- Lost coats, quite a bit. Homework time.

We remind kids to get their coats when we come in from recess. Often other kids are on the blacktop with their parents, so we don't usually bring in remaining coats unless we're sure they belong to BT kids. Please write your child's name in their coat so we can help get it back to them.

- Need him to do homework more.
- Would like reinforcement of homework time for older kids (less ability for them to opt out).

We have 40 minutes dedicated to homework time where we provide a quite, supportive environment with tea served daily! We also have a homework contract which you can fill out with your child where you can require attendance on any days you wish. Obviously, if your child doesn't have their homework or a book to read, they will not be very productive.

If your child needs more time, they can choose to come in right after snack to work on it, while other kids are at recess. As children get into the higher grades, more of their homework involves some kind of internet use, requiring the majority of their work to be done at home. Our staff is here to help in whatever way we can, but we can't guarantee that a student will complete their homework while at Blazing Trails.