

Vibrant Faith Institute

What's Your Congregation's Approach to Families?

Identify your congregation's approach with families using the following questions. (See Chapters 1 and 3 in *Families at the Center of Faith Formation* for background.) For each question, identify your congregation's current practice with parents and/or families using the rating scale:

1 = not at all

3 = often

5 = a lot.

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| 1. We <i>express care</i> with the families in our congregations and communities, including listening to them, showing interest in their lives, and investing in them. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. We <i>challenge growth</i> in families by expecting them to live up to their potential and helping them learn from their mistakes. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. We <i>provide support</i> and advocacy when families really need it. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. We <i>share power</i> with families, treating them as true partners by giving them voice in things that matter to them and collaborating with them to solve problems and reach goals. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. We encourage families to <i>expand possibilities</i> by connecting them with other people, ideas, and opportunities to help them grow. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. We offer regular <i>gatherings of all our families</i> for learning, worship, service, relationship-building, and more throughout the year. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. We engage families <i>together with the whole community</i> for learning, worship, service, relationship-building, and more throughout the year. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. We find ways to <i>reach families at home</i> with support, resources, and activities to develop family life and grow in faith. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. We <i>strengthen families</i> by helping them develop the practices and skills for healthy family life. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. We equip parents with the <i>knowledge and skills</i> for effective parenting and forming faith in young people. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. We engage parents <i>as leaders and contributors</i> in the congregation and in the community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. We design ministries, projects, and activities that <i>complement and reinforce</i> the role of families in faith formation. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. We recognize the <i>family as the epicenter</i> of faith formation across the generations. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. We celebrate the evidence of <i>vibrant faith at work</i> in the everyday lives of families and their young people. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |