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.

1. We express care with the families in our congregations and communities, including listening to them, showing interest in their lives, and investing in them.

2. We challenge growth in families by expecting them to live up to their potential and helping them learn from their mistakes.

3. We provide support and advocacy when families really need it.

4. We share power 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.

5. We encourage families to expand possibilities by connecting them with other people, ideas, and opportunities to help them grow.

6. We offer regular gatherings of all our families for learning, worship, service, relationship-building, and more throughout the year.

7. We engage families together with the whole community for learning, worship, service, relationship-building, and more throughout the year.

8. We find ways to reach families at home with support, resources, and activities to develop family life and grow in faith.

9. We strengthen families by helping them develop the practices and skills for healthy family life.

10. We equip parents with the knowledge and skills for effective parenting and forming faith in young people.

11. We engage parents as leaders and contributors in the congregation and in the community.

12. We design ministries, projects, and activities that complement and reinforce the role of families in faith formation.

13. We recognize the family as the epicenter of faith formation across the generations.

14. We celebrate the evidence of vibrant faith at work in the everyday lives of families and their young people.