

Active Parenting for Stepfamilies Survey

About You

This information is requested for statistical and demographic purposes only. On your answer sheet, please mark the answer that best describes you for each question.

1. Are you:
 - A** Male
 - B** Female

2. Please tell us your age group:
 - A** 15-20
 - B** 21-30
 - C** 31-40
 - D** 41-50
 - E** 50+

3. Please tell us your ethnicity:
 - A** African-American
 - B** Caucasian
 - C** Hispanic/Latin American
 - D** Asian/Pacific Islander
 - E** Other

4. Please tell us about your family makeup:
 - A** Intact family (both biological parents in the home)
 - B** Stepfamily (biological parent and step-parent)
 - C** Single parent family
 - D** Foster parent(s)
 - E** I am an incarcerated parent (in a correctional facility)

5. Is a spouse or partner attending this group with you?
 - A** Yes
 - B** No

6. How many children live in your household under the age of 13?
 - A** One
 - B** Two
 - C** Three
 - D** Four or more
 - E** No children under the age of 13 live with me in my household

7. How many children live in your household between the ages of 13 and 18?
 - A** One
 - B** Two
 - C** Three
 - D** Four or more
 - E** No children age 13 to 18 live with me in my household

8. What is your relationship with the children in your household?
 - A** Biological parent
 - B** Step parent
 - C** Both biological and stepparent
 - D** Biological family member (non-parent)
 - E** Other

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9. Please tell us your highest degree of education:
- A** Some High School
 - B** High School Diploma
 - C** Some College
 - D** Undergraduate Degree
 - E** Graduate Degree
10. Please tell us your average household yearly income (optional)
- A. Under \$40,000
 - B. \$40,000 to \$80,000
 - C. Above \$80,000

Parent Survey Questions

Please read each statement below. Circle the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds with how much you agree or disagree with the statement. As you think about each statement, please do not try to look for a “right” answer—we want to know what you think.

A	B	C	D	E
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

- 11. Most remarried couples bring some “emotional baggage” with them from previous relationships that can get in the way of creating a strong stepfamily.
- 12. Children in a stepfamily need to heal from past losses.
- 13. Stepparents must be willing to discipline their stepchildren from the start or they won’t be taken seriously.
- 14. A stepparent should not contradict a biological parent in front of the children.
- 15. Becoming a strong stepfamily should not take more than a year.
- 16. Stepchildren should adjust to the way things have always been done in their new stepfamily.
- 17. The couple relationship is the foundation of a strong stepfamily.
- 18. Stepparents should never acknowledge to their stepchildren that this is a new and challenging situation for them
- 19. The strongest bond in a stepfamily is between the parent and his or her biological child.
- 20. Love between a parent and stepchild usually takes a long time to develop.
- 21. It is okay if stepchildren never love their stepparents as long as they respect them.
- 22. Family meetings often create unnecessary conflict in a stepfamily and should be avoided.
- 23. The parents should handle conflicts in a stepfamily in no uncertain terms.
- 24. Step brothers and sisters can work out issues around sexuality for themselves.
- 25. A good way to teach a child positive life lessons and help him or her adapt to stepfamily life is to point out the mistakes made by his or her non-custodial biological parent.
- 26. When the time is right, the biological parent should formally transfer the authority to discipline to the stepparent.
- 27. The commitment of both parents (biological and step) is equally important to stepfamily success.
- 28. All things considered, stepfamilies are pretty much like intact families.

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29. If a remarried couple truly loves each other, the children will love their new stepparents almost immediately.
30. One of the myths of stepfamily living is that kids sometimes get “caught in the middle” of grown-up conflicts.

The next set of questions is about your child. Select the child or teen (biological or stepchild) that you are the most concerned about. Then, using the scale below, circle the letter on the answer sheet that best describes how often that child or teen does each behavior.

A	B	C	D	E
Almost never	Sometimes	Not sure	Often	Almost always

31. My child demands too much attention from me.
32. My child follows my directions.
33. My child becomes upset if he/she makes a mistake.
34. My child is truthful.
35. My child quits or gives up on tasks before completion.
36. My child bosses others.
37. My child complains about things not being fair.
38. My child expresses anger in an appropriate manner.
39. My child shows respect for others.
40. My child expresses affection toward me.
41. My child cooperates with me.
42. My child is willing to try new things.
43. My child blames others for his/her own mistakes.
44. My child likes him/herself.
45. My child says hurtful things to me.
46. My child talks with me about concerns and asks questions.
47. My child spends a lot of time by him/herself.
48. My child encourages others.
49. My child enjoys spending time with me.
50. My child enjoys spending time with the whole family group.

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Please read each statement below. Then, using the scales below, circle the letter on your answer sheet that best describes how often you do this.

A	B	C	D	E
Rarely	About once a month	About once a week	A few times a week	Every day

- 51. I take time out to play or do something fun with my child.
- 52. I give my child responsibilities around our home.
- 53. I give my child choices.
- 54. I express affection to my child in a thoughtful and creative way.
- 55. I encourage my child in a sincere and specific way.
- 56. I take a "time out" to relax and clear my mind (for example: take a hot bath, read, talk to a friend, take a walk).

A	B	C	D	E
Almost never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Almost always

- 57. I say "please" to my child when I ask her to do something.
- 58. I yell at my child when I am angry.
- 59. I help my child solve his own problems.
- 60. I give in to my child's demands to avoid a fight or to keep her happy.
- 61. I give my full attention to my child when he talks to me.
- 62. I use a logical consequence when she does something wrong.
- 63. I offer my child rewards such as money or toys to get him to do what I want.
- 64. I explain what behavior I expect from my child in a specific situation (for example, going to the grocery store).
- 65. I monitor my child's activities, including TV, movies, music, and the Internet, choice of friends, and activities outside the home.
- 66. I am able to influence my child's behavior without yelling, spanking, or threatening.
- 67. I let my child participate in decisions that affect the family.

A	B	C	D	E
Never	Once or twice a year	Several times a year	Once every couple of weeks	About once a week

- 68. I hold family meetings.
- 69. I discuss our family's values with my child.
- 70. I talk to my child about the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

About This Course (to be answered following the last session)

Circle the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds with how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

A
Strongly
Disagree

B
Disagree

C
Neutral

D
Agree

E
Strongly
Agree

1. I found this course to be helpful.
2. Our stepfamily has grown stronger since I began this course.
3. My children's behavior has improved since I began this course.
4. I would recommend this course to a friend.