



Activity Programming for Children and Families

A Research Report from the
2022 Student Life Survey

Center for the Study of Student Life

April 2022



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report explores the activity programming preferred by parenting students for children aged 0-4, 5-11, and 12-18. Data for this report are from the 2022 Student Life Survey. In January 2022, 11,701 students on the Columbus campus were surveyed, out of which 1,639 responded, resulting in a response rate of 14.0%. A sample of 6,741 undergraduate students were surveyed; 14.4% responded ($n = 970$). A sample of 3,795 graduate students were surveyed; 14.5% responded ($n = 552$). A sample of 1,100 professional students were surveyed; 10.4% responded ($n = 114$). This report only includes students who reported being financially responsible for a child aged 0-4 ($n = 47$), 5-11 ($n = 45$) and 12-18 ($n = 31$).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- For parenting students with children aged 0-4, the three activities with the most interest were take-home activity kits (**78.7%**), visits to the Columbus Zoo or Zoombezi Bay (**61.7%**) and local field trips, planetarium events and on-campus museums and exhibits (**53.2%**).
- For parenting students with children aged 5-11, the three activities with the most interest were local field trips, visits to the Columbus Zoo or Zoombezi Bay and planetarium events (**71.1%**), take-home activity kits (**66.7%**) and cooking programs and on-campus arts and crafts (**64.4%**).
- For parenting students with children aged 12-18, the three activities with the most interest were visits to the Columbus Zoo or Zoombezi Bay (**64.5%**), on-campus festivals and planetarium events (**54.8%**) and cooking programs and movie screenings (**51.6%**).

INTRODUCTION

Each semester, activity programming takes place for parenting students and their children. This report explores the level of interest for different types of activity programming. Respondents were asked if they had a child aged 0-4, 5-11, and 12-18. They were asked about activity programming for each age group where they reported having a child. Activity programming options included a variety of options, including on-campus activities, off-campus trips, and at-home activities.

METHODS

The Student Life Survey is administered annually by the Center for the Study of Student Life to examine trends in student engagement, sense of belonging and satisfaction with the college experience. The 2022 Student Life Survey was administered to a stratified, random sample of 11,701 Ohio State students at the beginning of spring semester (January 2021). This sample comprised 6,741 undergraduate students, 3,795 graduate and 1,100 professional students, all on the Columbus campus. A total of 1,639 students responded to the survey. Three respondents were removed for mischievous or careless response patterns, resulting in a final sample of 1,636 respondents and an overall response rate of 14.0%. The response rate was 14.4% among undergraduate students, 14.5% among graduate students and 10.4% among professional students. See the Appendix for a summary of respondents' demographic and academic characteristics. Students who did not respond to the items used for this report were removed from analyses, resulting in an unweighted sample size of 1,489 students for this report with 869 undergraduate students, 510 graduate students and 110 professional students. Demographics of the students included in the report did not substantially vary from the overall Student Life Survey sample.

This report only includes students who reported being financially responsible for a child aged 0-4 ($n = 47$), 5-11 ($n = 45$) and 12-18 ($n = 31$).



FINDINGS

PROGRAMMING FOR STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN

	Children Aged 0-4 (n=47)	Children Aged 5-11 (n=45)	Children Aged 12-18 (n=31)
Take-home activity kits	78.7%	66.7%	38.7%
Kids in the Kitchen / cooking programs	42.6%	64.4%	51.6%
On-campus arts & crafts events	48.9%	64.4%	32.3%
Movie screenings	29.8%	51.1%	51.6%
Local field trips	53.2%	71.1%	48.4%
Visit to the Columbus Zoo / Zoombezi Bay	61.7%	71.1%	64.5%
Campus Tours	21.3%	24.4%	48.4%
Picnics	46.8%	42.2%	22.6%
Fitness Events	17.0%	26.7%	35.5%
On-campus festivals	34.0%	48.9%	54.8%
Ice skating at Ohio State Ice Rink	38.3%	60.0%	45.2%
Planetarium events	53.2%	71.1%	54.8%
On-campus museums and exhibits	53.2%	55.6%	48.4%
Trivia games	----	13.3%	19.4%
Other	8.5%	2.2%	19.4%

Write-in responses for 'Other'

Fourteen respondents selected 'other' and offered suggestions for programming. Parents with children aged 0-11 provided suggestions including play time for young babies, daycare, and dinosaur-focused activities in addition to sensory-based activities for children on the autism spectrum. Parents with children aged 12-18 offered suggestions including trips to Center of Science and Industry (COSI), video game activities, board game groups, football games, LGBTQ events, and other opportunities for teenagers to meet others their own age.

CONCLUSION

This report provides valuable information for understanding the types of activities that parenting students and their children would find most valuable. Parenting students with young children reported interest in activities to do at home while those with older children reported more interest in activities on- and off-campus. Trips to the Columbus Zoo/Zoombezi Bay ranked high among all three age groups.



APPENDIX: PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

	Parents of Children Aged 0-4		Parents of Children Aged 5-11		Parents of Children Aged 12-18	
	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent
Total	47		45		31	
Academic Level	47		45		31	
Undergraduate student	7	14.9%	6	13.3%	5	16.1%
Graduate student	33	70.2%	37	82.2%	26	83.9%
Professional student	7	14.9%	2	4.4%	0	0.0%
Gender Identity	47		45		31	
Man	30	63.8%	21	46.7%	7	22.6%
Woman	15	31.9%	24	53.3%	24	77.4%
Another identity not listed	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	2	4.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transgender Status	47		45		31	
Transgender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cisgender	44	93.6%	45	100.0%	31	100.0%
Not sure	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	3	6.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Race/Ethnicity	47		45		31	
African American or Black	3	6.4%	4	8.9%	2	6.5%
Asian or Asian American	6	12.8%	7	15.6%	0	0.0%
Latinx or Hispanic	1	2.1%	0	0.0%	1	3.2%
Middle Eastern or Arab American	1	2.1%	1	2.2%	0	0.0%
White or European American	31	66.0%	30	66.7%	25	80.6%
Prefer not to answer	4	8.5%	1	2.2%	0	0.0%
Another identity not listed	1	2.1%	2	4.4%	3	9.7%
Biracial or Multiracial	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sexual Orientation	47		45		31	
LGBQ+	2	4.3%	1	2.2%	5	16.1%
Heterosexual/straight	41	87.2%	43	95.6%	26	83.9%
Prefer not to say	4	8.5%	1	2.2%	0	0.0%



	Parents of Children Aged 0-4		Parents of Children Aged 5-11		Parents of Children Aged 12-18	
	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent
Generational Status	47		45		31	
First-generation student	6	12.8%	8	17.8%	6	19.4%
Continuing-generation student	41	87.2%	37	82.2%	25	80.6%
Disability Status	47		45		31	
Has a disability	3	6.4%	5	11.1%	2	6.5%
Does not have a disability	41	87.2%	40	88.9%	29	93.5%
Prefer not to say	3	6.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Residence	47		34		31	
On-campus	1	2.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Off-campus	47	97.9%	45	100.0%	31	100.0%
Sorority or fraternity housing	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

