



**Study IX
 Parent Perceptions of
 Competence & Confidence
 of Practitioners Working
 with Children with
 Disabilities**

The purpose of this study was to better understand parent perceptions of early intervention personnel who provide services under Part C of IDEA 2004. Information gathered from the Parent Perceptions of the Confidence and Competence of Service Providers Survey is presented in this report. Results were used to identify strengths and weaknesses in several areas of early intervention.

Participant Characteristics

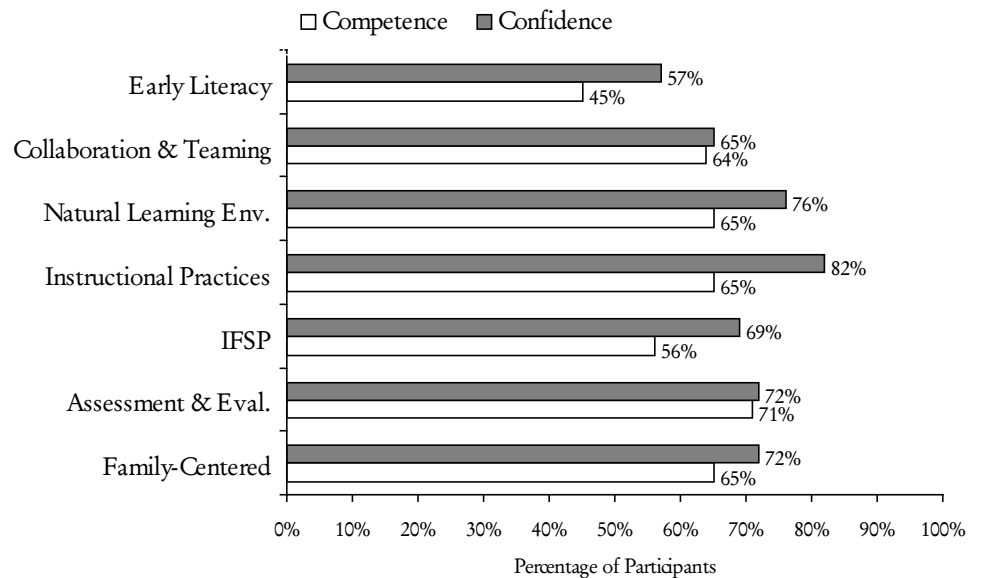
174 parents from 23 states and territories completed the survey. The majority who responded were white (64%) and female (98%). Valid ages ranged from 17 to 44 years old with the majority of participants reporting an age between 17 and 25 (80%). The majority held a college degree (42%), and most were married (86%).

The Survey

The survey consisted of 59 questions, 19 of which were designed to collect demographic and background information about the respondent and child. The remaining 40 questions assessed parent perceptions of the competency and confidence, as well as, overall satisfaction of their child’s primary service provider.

Confidence and Competence Results

As displayed below, findings suggest that parents feel their child’s service providers are more confident than competent in all seven areas of practice. Overall parent perceptions was determined by percentage of respondents who reported “always” or “almost always” on a 7-point scale to two items assessing each domain.





The Center To Inform
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At a Glance...

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Parental Satisfaction Results

As displayed below, overall parental satisfaction varied by service provider type. Satisfaction was determined by percentage of parents who indicated their child's service provider did an "excellent", "very good" or "good" job on a 5-point scale providing assistance to the child and family.

	Physical Therapist	Special Ed. Teacher	Speech/ Lang. Therapist	Occupat. Therapist	All Other Service Providers
Managing child's chronic condition	100%	93%	90%	100%	89%
Providing general health care	77%	73%	88%	90%	50%
Help in coordinating care	94%	89%	83%	90%	82%
Communicating with other providers	91%	86%	71%	95%	78%
Effort to be flexible	94%	97%	85%	100%	94%
Sensitivity to background and beliefs	100%	100%	94%	93%	85%
Really listening to your opinions	100%	96%	88%	95%	86%
Ability to answer questions about condition	88%	80%	84%	95%	83%
Amount of information and guidance	85%	78%	78%	100%	78%
Referral to other providers as needed	93%	85%	79%	100%	77%
Putting you in touch with other parents	55%	56%	54%	89%	64%
Understanding condition's impact on family	84%	87%	72%	79%	83%
Mean Overall Satisfaction	88%	85%	81%	94%	79%

For a copy of the full report go to: uconnuccdd.org

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Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the U. S. Department of Education.



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