

Retrospective Surveys – Prenatal Programs

Sample Script for Use with Respondents

We are asking you to complete surveys to help us know how well our program is working for you. We usually ask questions before a family begins our program and after a family completes our program, so we can understand how you or your family may have changed from participating in our program. Since your baby was not yet born when your family started our program, we didn't get the opportunity to ask you [some of] these questions when we normally would because they require you to reflect and respond based on your feelings about parenting your child. But we do want to understand from your perspective how our program has affected your family. So today we're going to ask you to answer a retrospective survey, thinking back to how you felt in the past, and then we'll ask you to answer the same surveys again, but this time reflecting on your current feelings and experiences.

First, we will ask you about the past. In a retrospective survey, we ask you to think back to a specific time in the past and answer questions based on that time in the past. In this case, we want you to think about the time before your family started our program. We would like to know what you did and how you felt back then. When I ask each question, think back to what you were doing or how you were feeling before beginning our program. Then, answer the question according to what you thought or felt at that time in the past.

Here is an example of a typical survey question and a retrospective question:

(retrospective) How did you feel about the weather six months ago?

(typical) How do you feel about the weather this week?

The answers to the questions about the past could be the same or could be different from how you would answer the questions now. We ask that you do your best to answer according to how you were feeling or thinking in the past, and to make your best guess if you cannot remember everything perfectly. After this survey, we will ask you the same questions about how you are feeling or thinking today. But for now, we are going to focus on the past before our program.

Do you have any questions?