



## Studies in the News for



## Children and Families Commission

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### Contents This Week

#### Introductory Material

#### IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

[Governor's Committee on Education Excellence report](#)

[State early childhood policy profiles](#)

[PK Inclusion](#)

[California Preschool Learning Foundations](#)

[Early learning guideline recommendations](#)

['State of Preschool' yearbook](#)

[50-state survey on early care and education](#)

#### IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

[Child poverty and family economic hardship](#)

[Healthy families - preventing child maltreatment](#)

#### IMPROVED HEALTH

[Haves and have-nots in children's dental care](#)

[Podcast: Sign language for babies](#)

[Moms' and dads' substance use around pregnancy](#)

#### IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

[Designing subsidy systems with families in mind](#)

[Abandoned infant guidelines](#)

[Child care quality rating system](#)

#### STUDIES TO COME

[Pregnancy, smoking and baby's temperament](#)

#### CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Pre-K Advocacy Day](#)  
[9<sup>th</sup> Annual First 5 Statewide Conference](#)  
[Abandoned Infants Assistance Grants](#)

## **Introduction to Studies in the News**

Studies in the News: Children and Family Supplement is a service provided to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission by the California State Library. The service features weekly lists of current articles focusing on Children and Family policy. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/ccfc/>.

### **How to Obtain Materials Listed in SITN:**

- When available on the Internet, the URL for the full-text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact Information Resources & Government Publications at (916-654-0081; [cslinfo@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslinfo@library.ca.gov)).
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

### **IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Students First: Renewing Hope for California's Future. By the Governor's Committee on Education Excellence. (The Committee, Sacramento, California) November 2007.**

[“Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's blue-ribbon committee on education released a list of sweeping recommendations... to overhaul California's public school system at an additional annual cost of \$10.5 billion. The governor's 18-member Committee on Education Excellence spent nearly three years researching and preparing the report, which contains controversial proposals such as merit-based pay for teachers, giving local school districts more control of their finances and preventing most 4-year-olds from starting kindergarten.... The governor would not say whether he endorses all of the proposals, but said his appointed secretary of education, David Long, and the authors of the report will organize town hall meetings throughout the state to receive feedback. Among the proposals expected to draw attention is one to begin developing a plan for universal preschool, starting by expanding subsidized programs for low-income families. The committee also recommends giving incentive grants to school districts to create full-day kindergarten classes. Only 30 percent of kindergartners in California are in class for a full day, compared with a national average of about 60 percent, the report said. Along those lines, the recommendations call for changing the rules for when a child can start kindergarten. Currently, a child can start if his/her fifth birthday falls before Dec. 2. The committee has recommended that date be moved up to Sept. 1.” San Francisco Chronicle (March 15, 2008.)]

Executive Summary: 44 p. <http://www.everychildprepared.org/docs/summary.pdf>

Summary in Spanish: 44 p.

(Primero los Estudiantes: Renovando las Esperanzas para el Futuro de California.)

<http://www.everychildprepared.org/docs/summaryesp.pdf>

Full Technical Report: 278 p.

<http://www.everychildprepared.org/docs/technicalreport.pdf>

FAQs: 4 p. <http://www.everychildprepared.org/docs/faq.pdf>

Report Summary: 4 p. <http://www.everychildprepared.org/docs/report.pdf>

**State Early Childhood Policy Profiles. By the National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) Interactive website.**

[“NCCP’s regional profiles integrate early childhood policy and demographic data for the 10 regions defined by the Department of Health and Human Services and show what states are and aren’t doing, compared to neighboring states. And the new User Guide describes more than 30 state policy choices highlighted in the profiles.” NCCP Update (March, 18, 2008.)]

California Early Childhood Profile: 6 p.

[http://www.nccp.org/profiles/pdf/profile\\_early\\_childhood\\_CA.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/profiles/pdf/profile_early_childhood_CA.pdf)

State and regional profiles, 50 state data tables:

[http://www.nccp.org/projects/improvingtheodds\\_stateprofiles.html](http://www.nccp.org/projects/improvingtheodds_stateprofiles.html)

**“PK Inclusion: Getting Serious about a P-16 Education System.” By Ruby Takanishi and Kristie Kauerz. IN: Phi Delta Kappan, vol. 89, no. 7 (March 2008) pp. 480-487.**

[“The authors make the case that a P-16 system must pay attention to the PK-3 years. Learning during these years lays the foundation for all that follows. They outline what educators and policy makers can do to address governance, regulations, policies, and financing to support the implementation of a PK-3 approach.” The Learning Curve (March 18, 2008.)]

Full text at: [http://www.fcd-us.org/usr\\_doc/PKInclusionGettingSerious.pdf](http://www.fcd-us.org/usr_doc/PKInclusionGettingSerious.pdf)

**California Preschool Learning Foundations (Volume 1). Edited by Dixie Abbott and others. (Child Development Division, California Department of Education. (The Department, Sacramento, California) 2008. 205 p.**

[“The Child Development Division of CDE has recently published the Early Learning Foundations which provide a framework from which to plan developmentally appropriate learning opportunities. The guidelines address the growth of children at 48 months and 60 months of age with a focus on social emotional development, language and literacy acquisition, English language development and mathematics. A general description of the early learning competency is presented followed by suggestions and examples from expert practitioners.” Early Learning with Families: Educational Resources (February 26, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/documents/preschoollf.pdf>

**Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers: Recommendations to States. By Sandra Petersen and others. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC) 2008. 34 p.**

[“Zero to Three released its much anticipated guidelines... as a road map for states to use as they develop policies and programs for babies and toddlers. The report promotes the building of a strong foundation for child development and for future learning through care that is responsive, appropriate, and high quality in order to enhance a young child’s earliest experiences. In addition, the report offers recommendations and examples to states as they embark on an inclusive process to develop or refine research-based early learning guidelines for infants and toddlers.” Natural Resources (March 20, 2008.)]

Full text at:

[http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Early\\_Learning\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Infants\\_and\\_Toddlers.pdf?docID=4961](http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Early_Learning_Guidelines_for_Infants_and_Toddlers.pdf?docID=4961)

**State of Preschool 2007: State Preschool Yearbook. By W. Steven Barnett and others. (The National Institute for Early Education Research, New Brunswick, New Jersey) 2007. 247 p.**

[“‘The State of Preschool 2007’ ranks all 50 states on the percentage of children served and spending per child. It also compares the number of quality benchmarks each state meets for the 2006-2007 school year. The survey found that enrollment, quality and state spending per child increased.... ‘The nation made progress this year, but when you dig deep into the data, the picture is not so rosy,’ Barnett said. ‘It is most grim in the states - Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming - with no state-funded programs. But serious problems also exist in four states - California, Texas, Florida, and Ohio - that are home to one-third of all American preschoolers.’ California, Texas, Florida, and Ohio are among only seven states that meet less than half of NIEER’s quality benchmarks. All four spend less than the national average per child. Texas and California do not limit class size. Ohio, Florida and California do not require preschool teachers to have

education comparable to public school teachers.” NIEER Press Release (March 19, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://nieer.org/yearbook/pdf/yearbook.pdf>

Interact with the report: <http://nieer.org/yearbook/>

**State Early Care and Education Budget Actions FY 2007 - FY 2008. By the National Conference of State Legislatures. (The Conference, Denver, Colorado) [2008.] 35 p.**

[“NCSL's first-ever survey of state appropriations for child care, prekindergarten, parent support and other early learning. Survey results provide a 50-state view of state budget actions.” MyNCSL News (March 21, 2008.)]

Full text at: [http://www.ncsl.org/print/cyf/budget\\_chart.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/print/cyf/budget_chart.pdf)

Related materials: [http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/budget\\_appropriations.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/budget_appropriations.htm)

## **IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING**

**Child Poverty and Family Economic Hardship: 10 Important Questions. By the National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) [2008.] 7 p.**

[“Some of the most fundamental questions about poverty today are often taken for granted. But while these common questions may be easy to identify, the answers are not necessarily so.” NCCP Update (March, 18, 2008.)]

Full text at: [http://www.nccp.org/pages/pdf/page\\_131.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/pages/pdf/page_131.pdf)

**Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community. 2008 Resource Packet. By the Child Welfare Information Gateway and others. (The Gateway, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC) 2008. 66 p.**

[“This information packet was written to support child maltreatment prevention efforts by describing strategies and activities that promote protective factors. It is written for service providers, to encourage and support them as they engage and partner with parents to protect, nurture, and promote the healthy development of children. The packet includes suggestions for enhancing each of the five protective factors in families; tip sheets in English and Spanish for providers to use when working with parents and caregivers on

specific parenting challenges; strategies for sharing the message about child abuse prevention in communities; and information about child abuse and neglect...”]

Full text at: [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res\\_packet\\_2008/packet.pdf](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res_packet_2008/packet.pdf)

Related materials: [http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/res\\_packet\\_2008/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/res_packet_2008/)

## **IMPROVED HEALTH**

**Have and Have-Nots: A Look at Children’s Use of Dental Care in California. Snapshot. By Nadereh Pourat, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) 2008. 19 p.**

[“The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that children visit the dentist within six months of getting their first tooth and no later than their first birthday. However, many children from families living in poverty, facing language/cultural barriers, or with no dental insurance often do not visit the dentist until much later, after primary teeth have started to decay. This snapshot, part of the California HealthCare Foundation’s new focus on oral health, examines the most recent data available from the 2005 California Health Interview Survey and presents a more detailed look at racial/ethnic differences and other factors that contribute to disparities in dental care for California’s children, aged 0 to 11, including infants with at least one tooth.”]

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/documents/insurance/DentalDisparitiesSnapshot07.pdf>

**Sign Language for Babies. Interview with Nancy Hanauer. Shrink Rap Radio: The Premier Psychology Podcast. No. 134. January 25, 2008. Podcast.**

[This podcast features an interview on baby sign language with Nancy Hanauer. “Nancy Hanauer, B.A. is a pioneer in the field of American Sign Language for hearing families. Nancy was one of the first teachers creating and providing classes in North America. Her business has been featured in numerous newspapers and magazines.”]

Podcast at: <http://www.mefedia.com/entry/-134-sign-language-for-babies/6080731/>

**“Men’s and Women’s Patterns of Substance Use Around Pregnancy.” By Jennifer A. Bailey and others. IN: Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care, vol. 35, no. 1 (March 2008) pp. 50-59.**

[“Despite public health campaigns, a surprising number of women continue to use substances such as tobacco, marijuana and alcohol during pregnancy and their usage rebounds to pre-pregnancy levels within two years of having a baby, according to a new University of Washington study. Men’s patterns of substance use during their partners’

pregnancies were even bleaker. Men typically are not targeted by these campaigns, and their levels of binge drinking, daily smoking and marijuana use remained fairly stable before, during and after pregnancy, the study showed. This is important, according to the study's lead authors Jennifer Bailey and Karl Hill, because men's substance use may make it harder for women to stop using while they're pregnant and may make it more likely that mothers will resume smoking or drinking after their child is born.... 'The months after childbirth are critical for intervening with mothers,' said Bailey, who is a UW research scientist. 'For example, many already have done the hard work of quitting smoking and haven't smoked a cigarette in six months or more. We should support that effort so that they can continue as nonsmokers. However, we know if dad is smoking or drinking it is more likely that mom will resume smoking or drinking.' The research is the first comprehensive look at mothers' and fathers' substance use on a month-by-month basis during a three-year period that included pregnancy." University of Washington via EurekAlert! (March 19, 2008.)]

Full text at:

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1523-536X.2007.00211.x>

## **IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE**

**Designing Subsidy Systems to Meet the Needs of Families: An Overview of Policy Research Findings. By Gina Adams and others. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) 2008. 72 p.**

[“Child care subsidies funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) can play a critical role in supporting low-income families' efforts to become stably employed, and in helping parents access stable, safe child care settings for their children. Yet research has found that some subsidy policies and practices can inadvertently make it challenging for families to receive and keep subsidies as they work toward self-sufficiency. In recent years, state and local subsidy agencies have been redesigning their subsidy policies to better meet the needs of the families they serve, and to create more efficient and fiscally responsible systems. In many ways, these strategies reflect states' growing understanding of the dynamic nature of low-income families' lives and of the challenges they face as they move toward stable employment. This report synthesizes findings from a number of different sources - primarily from research conducted by the Urban Institute, but also research from other organizations - to lay out a number of key strategy and policy options states have been implementing to help eligible families access and retain subsidies.”]

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411611\\_subsidy\\_system.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411611_subsidy_system.pdf)

**Expediting Permanency for Abandoned Infants: Guidelines for State Policies and Procedures. By the National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center. (The Center, University of California, Berkeley, California) 2007. 41 p.**

[“This monograph examines, from a policy and practice perspective, the phenomenon of infants and young children who are abandoned or at risk of abandonment by their parents throughout the United States. Specifically, it: -Reviews state policies and practices concerning abandonment, and makes recommendations in regards to intent to abandon, diligent searches, and time frames for making an abandonment determination; -Suggests a definition for permanency, and reviews state policies vis-à-vis this definition; -Recommends time frames and procedures for terminating parental rights in the case of an abandoned infant or young child; and -Identifies promising practices in expediting permanency for infants and young children who are abandoned or considered at risk for abandonment.”]

Full text at: [http://aia.berkeley.edu/media/pdf/expediting\\_permanency\\_2007.pdf](http://aia.berkeley.edu/media/pdf/expediting_permanency_2007.pdf)

**Paths to Quality - A Child Care Quality Rating System for Indiana: What is its Scientific Basis? By James Elicker and others. (Child Development and Family Studies, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana) October 23, 2007. 96 p.**

[“‘Paths to Quality’, a voluntary child care rating system developed in Fort Wayne, Indiana nine years ago, is going statewide this year. The system rates licensed child care centers, licensed child care homes, and ministries registered for child care on a scale of one to four. When providers reach level four, they qualify for national accreditation. Indiana's Bureau of Child Care decided to implement the system statewide after Purdue University concluded it would substantially improve early care and education in the state. The bureau plans a media campaign to increase awareness of the program this year.” NIEER Online Newsletter (March 7, 2008.)]

Full text at:

[http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/cff/documents/project\\_reports/07\\_paths\\_to\\_quality.pdf](http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/cff/documents/project_reports/07_paths_to_quality.pdf)

### **STUDIES TO COME**

*[The following studies, reports, and documents have not yet arrived. California State Employees may place requests, and copies will be provided when the material arrives. All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.]*

**“Meaningful Differences in Maternal Smoking Behaviour during Pregnancy: Implications for Infant Behavioural Vulnerability. By Kate E. Pickett and others. IN: Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, vol. 62, no. 4 (April 2008) pp. 318-324.**

[“Giving up smoking during pregnancy may boost the chances of giving birth to an easy going child, indicates research in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. The findings are based on over 18,000 UK babies born between 2000 and 2002, who were taking part in the Millennium Cohort Study. Their mothers were classified as either non-smokers during pregnancy, quitters, light smokers, or those who smoked 10 or more cigarettes a day (heavy smokers). The infants' temperaments were assessed when they were 9 months old, using a validated scale, designed to pick up positive mood, receptivity to new things, and regular sleep and eating patterns (regularity) in infants. The results showed that mums to be who kicked their habit had the most easy going infants, compared with non-smokers and smokers. Their children had the lowest chances of unpredictable behaviour and of becoming distressed when faced with new situations or things. At the other end of the scale, heavy smokers had the most difficult children. Their children were much more likely to achieve the lowest scores for positive mood. Previous animal research has also shown that nicotine is a behavioural toxin. And being temperamentally difficult can often be a forerunner of antisocial behaviour, the evidence suggests.” British Medical Journal, via EurekAlert! (March 12, 2008.) NOTE: Meaningful Differences in Maternal Smoking... will be available for loan.]

## **CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Pre-K Advocacy Day: Building the Preschool Movement. Sponsored by Preschool California. April 22, 2008. 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sheraton Grand, Sacramento, California.**

[“Pre-K Advocacy Day will bring together key pre-k supporters and stakeholders from across the state to call on policymakers to make effective pre-k for California's children a priority.... Advocates will have the opportunity to meet with state legislators, network with fellow pre-k advocates, find out about this year's pre-k policy issues and learn effective advocacy tips. The event is free, but space is limited.”]

For information and to register:

<http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/take-action/advocacy-day-information.html>

**9th Annual First 5 Statewide Conference, First 5's Next 5: Roadmap to Readiness. May 22-23, 2008, Pre-Conference Institute May 21, 2008. Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California.**

[“This year's Statewide Conference features an array of plenary sessions, workshops, and mini-institutes designed to maximize our collective opportunities. Nationally renowned speakers will offer perspectives on the current policy environment and reflect on how First 5 can most effectively contribute to policy change. Mini-institutes - twice as long as regular workshops - will create forums for in-depth exploration on a variety of topics.

Workshops are designed as opportunities for experts, county commissions and partners to highlight successes, strategies and promising practices. The year's conference promises to be a rich opportunity for all." Kris Perry.]

For more information and to register:

<http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/first5/08/index.htm>

**Funding opportunity: Abandoned Infants Assistance: Comprehensive Support Services for Families Affected by Substance Abuse and/or HIV/AIDS. Grants issued by the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, Washington, DC. Due date for applications: May 27, 2008.**

[These grants were created with the goal in mind "to establish a program of local support services projects in order:

- To prevent the abandonment in hospitals of infants and young children, particularly those who have been perinatally exposed to a dangerous drug, those with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or who have been perinatally exposed to the virus, or those who have a life-threatening illness or other special medical need;
- To identify and address the needs of those infants and children who are, or might be, abandoned;
- To develop a program of comprehensive support services for these infants and young children and their natural families... that include, but are not limited to, foster family care services, case management services, family support services, respite and crisis intervention services, counseling services and group residential home services; and
- To recruit and train health and social services personnel, foster care families, and residential care providers to meet the needs of abandoned children and infants and children who are at risk of abandonment."]

For more information:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ACYF-CB-0045.html>