



Studies in the News for



Children and Families Commission

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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; csinfo@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

One-in-Five and Growing Fast: A Profile of Hispanic Public School Students. By Richard Fry and Felisa Gonzales, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 26, 2008. 29 p.

[“The number of Hispanic students in the nation’s public schools nearly doubled from 1990 to 2006, accounting for 60% of the total growth in public school enrollments over that period. There are now approximately 10 million Hispanic students in the nation’s public kindergartens and its elementary and high schools; they make up about one-in-five public school students in the United States. In 1990, just one-in-eight public school students were Hispanic. Strong growth in Hispanic enrollment is expected to continue for decades, according to a recently released U.S. Census Bureau population projection.... While Hispanics account for 20% of public school students nationally, their share of enrollment is greater in several states. In 2006 Hispanics were about half of all public school students in California, up from 36% in 1990.... Using data from the

2006 American Community Survey (ACS), this report presents information on the demographic characteristics of Hispanic students in public schools.”]

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/92.pdf>

Present, Engaged, and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades. By Hedy N. Chang and Mariajosé Romero. (National Center for Children in Poverty, New York, New York) September 2008. 32 p.

[“One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent (missing 10% or more of the school year); levels can be even higher in particular schools and districts. Schools and communities working together, however, can significantly reduce chronic early absence by taking comprehensive approaches for ensuring schools and families understand attendance is a key to their children’s future.” NCCP Update (September 9, 2008.)]

Full text at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_837.pdf

“The Early Years: Preschool Influences on Mathematics Achievement.” By Edward C. Melhuish, Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues, Birkbeck, University of London, and others. IN: Science, vol. 321, no. 5893 (August 29, 2008) pp. 1161-1162.

[“Parents and policy makers have long debated whether preschools provide any educational benefit - and whether it makes sense for states to spend millions of taxpayer dollars to fund them. A study appearing... in the journal Science could reignite the debate. In the study, researchers in England found that the benefits of attending a good preschool, including improved mathematic and reading ability and social skills, can last for several years and give children a leg up when they enter elementary school. For example, 10-year-olds who had attended a high-quality preschool - a designation based on the researchers' observations - scored 27% higher in math than those who had attended poor preschools. That may sound obvious, but the study follows a recent one that compared kids who attended preschool with those who didn't, with similar results. ‘We found that [good] preschools offer learning opportunities over and above what most homes can provide,’ says Edward Melhuish, a co-author of the paper.... ‘Children's ability to work independently improves significantly, and that's a high predictor of future academic success.’” Wall Street Journal (August 29, 2008.) NOTE: The Early Years... is available for loan.]

Preschool Matters. [Entire Issue.] By the National Institute for Early Education Research. Vol. 6, No. 2 (July/August 2008) 12 p.

[“The latest issue: Looks at the importance of play; Discusses new media’s effects on learning; Examines a tool that estimates pre-K’s cost; Interviews Sesame Workshop’s Michael Levine.” NIEER Online Newsletter (August 29, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://nieer.org/psm/pdf/62.pdf>

Protect our Kids from Preschool Hype. By Christina Satkowski. IN: The Early Ed Watch Blog (September 2, 2008) 2 p.

[“In a recent ‘Wall Street Journal’ article the Reason Foundation's Shikha Dalmia and Lisa Snell argue that pre-k programs don't work or, worse, actually harm kids. Dalmia and Snell have a point: Some pre-k advocates exaggerate the benefits of pre-k. But Dalmia and Snell commit the same sin by over-hyping the evidence against pre-k and conflating high-quality educational pre-k with ordinary daycare programs. What we really need to be talking about is preschool quality.”]

Full text at: <http://www.newamerica.net/blog/early-ed-watch/2008/protect-our-kids-preschool-hype-6702>

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Evidence-Based Programs to Prevent Children from Entering and Remaining in the Child Welfare System: Benefits and Costs for Washington. By Stephanie Lee and others. (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia, Washington) July 2008. 48 p.

[“Child abuse and neglect and the out-of-home placement of youth are concerns to both policymakers and society at large.... The Washington State Institute for Public Policy was directed by the 2007 Washington Legislature to estimate whether evidence-based programs and policies can ‘reduce the likelihood of children entering and remaining in the child welfare system, including both prevention and intervention programs.’ In this report, we study three basic questions. Is there credible evidence that specific programs work to improve these outcomes? If so, do benefits outweigh program costs? Finally, what would be the total net gain to Washington if these evidence-based programs were implemented more widely? Methods. We conducted a systematic review of all research evidence we could locate to identify what works to improve child welfare outcomes. We found and analyzed 74 rigorous comparison group evaluations of programs and policies, most of which were conducted in the United States. We then estimated the monetary value of the benefits to Washington if these programs were implemented in the state.”]

Full text at: <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/08-07-3901.pdf>

Nurse-Family Partnership: Effective and Affordable - What's Not to Like About It? By the Nurse-Family Partnership. (The Partnership, Denver, Colorado) 2008. 4 p.

[“As states and counties nationwide consider adopting the Nurse-Family Partnership program of prenatal and infancy nurse home visitation to serve low-income, first-time mothers and their children, questions arise about the cost of the program and the economic returns and health benefits of the investment. This brief presents the data necessary to answer those questions. (Author abstract)”]

Full text at:

http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/resources/files/PDF/Fact_Sheets/NFPCostBrief.pdf

Nurse-Family Partnership Snapshot: 1 p.

http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/resources/files/PDF/Fact_Sheets/NFP_Snapshot.pdf

California Early Childhood Profile. By the National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) September 3, 2008. 6 p.

[“State policies that promote health, education, and strong families can help the early development and school readiness of America's youngest citizens. This profile highlights California's policy choices alongside other contextual data related to the well-being of young children.”]

Full text at: http://nccp.org/profiles/pdf/profile_early_childhood_CA.pdf

National, regional and other state early childhood profiles:

http://nccp.org/profiles/early_childhood.html?utm_source=NCCP+Update&utm_campaign=6b1683bcb3-Update_9_09_2008&utm_medium=email#

Demographic Profiles. By the National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) 2008. Various pagings.

[“NCCP’s Demographic Profiles provide state-specific data on the characteristics of children in poor and low-income families by age. Children living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level - \$21,200 for a family of four in 2008 - are referred to as poor. Children living in families with incomes below twice this level are referred to as low income. View a Demographic profile for your state.”]

State Demographic Profiles at:

http://nccp.org/profiles/demographics.html?utm_source=NCCP+Update&utm_campaign=6b1683bcb3-Update_9_09_2008&utm_medium=email

50-State Demographics Wizard:

<http://nccp.org/tools/demographics/>

Basic Needs Budget Calculator. By the National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) 2008. Various pagings.

[“NCCP’s newest web-based tool - the Basic Needs Budget Calculator - shows how much a family needs to make ends meet. Basic Needs Budgets are provided for different family sizes and types and are currently available for 70 localities across 11 states.” NCCP Update (September 9, 2008.)]

Basic Needs Budget Calculator at:

http://nccp.org/tools/frs/budget.php?utm_source=NCCP+Update&utm_campaign=6b1683bcb3-Update_9_09_2008&utm_medium=email

IMPROVED HEALTH

Access to Oral Health Care During the Perinatal Period: A Policy Brief. By Amy Brown, Altarum Institute. (National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Washington, DC) 2008. 8 p.

[“This policy brief was developed to help professionals and the public better understand the importance of oral health during the perinatal period. The brief describes barriers to accessing oral health services and information - including myths and misperceptions - and presents potential solutions.” National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center bulletin (September 9, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/PerinatalBrief.pdf>

Oral Health Resource Bulletin. [Entire issue.] By the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center. Vol. 20 (The Center, Georgetown University, Washington, DC) June 2008. 32 p.

[“The purpose of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) is to respond to the needs of states and communities in addressing current and emerging public oral health issues. OHRC supports health professionals, program administrators, educators, policymakers, researchers, and others with the goal of improving oral health services for infants, children, adolescents, and their families.... The ‘Oral Health Resource Bulletin’ is a periodic publication designed to stimulate thinking and creativity within the maternal and child health (MCH) community by providing information about selected materials of interest.”]

Full text at: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/ResBltnXX.pdf>

Two Healthy Smiles: Tips to Keep You and Your Baby Healthy. By K. Holt and M. Clark. (National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Washington, DC) 2008. 2 p.

[“This brochure is designed to educate women about the importance of oral hygiene and oral health care during pregnancy. Topics include brushing, flossing, eating healthy foods, and getting dental checkups and treatment.” National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center bulletin (September 9, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/PregnancyBrochure.pdf>

NTP-CERHR Monograph on the Potential Human Reproductive and Developmental Effects of Bisphenol A. By the Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction. NIH Publication No. 08-5994. (The Center, National Toxicology Program, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina) September 2008. 321 p.

[“Current human exposure to bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical used in many polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins, is of ‘some concern’ for effects on development of the prostate gland and brain and for behavioral effects in fetuses, infants and children, according to a final report released today by the National Toxicology Program (NTP). The report provides the NTP’s current opinion on BPA’s potential to cause harm to human reproduction or development. The conclusions are based primarily on a broad body of research involving numerous laboratory animal studies. The report is part of a lengthy review of the scientific literature on BPA and takes into consideration public and peer review comments received on an earlier draft report.... The NTP, an interagency federal research program at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), part of the National Institutes of Health, uses a five-level scale ranging from negligible to serious, with ‘some concern’ being the midpoint.” NIEHS Press Release (September 3, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov/chemicals/bisphenol/bisphenol.pdf>

Fact sheet, podcasts and transcripts on the evaluation:

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/media/questions/sya-bpa.cfm#ntp>

“Food Security, Maternal Stressors, and Overweight Among Low-Income U.S. Children: Results From the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (1999–2002).” By Craig Gundersen and others. IN: Pediatrics, vol. 122, no. 3 (September 2008) pp. e529-e540.

[“A high proportion of children in the United States are overweight, suffer from food insecurity, and live in households facing maternal stressors. The objective of this article

was to identify the associations of food insecurity and maternal stressors with childhood overweight among low-income children. We hypothesized that maternal stressors may exacerbate the relationship between food insecurity and child obesity.... Conclusions. Younger children in food secure, low-income households in the United States who are experiencing higher levels of maternal stressors have a greater probability of being overweight than food insecure children. This finding was contrary to the hypothesis; 3 reasons for this are covered in the article. Those who create policies that address childhood obesity could consider the benefits to low-income children's well-being resulting from reducing their mothers' stressors. Because most children in the United States are food secure, these policies could have a profound impact on childhood overweight.”]

Full text at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/122/3/e529>

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Tutu and Me: Assessing the Effects of a Family Interaction Program on Parents and Grandparents. By Toni Porter and Lee Vuong. (Institute for a Child Care Continuum, Bank Street College of Education, New York, New York) July 2008. 52 p.

[“This paper presents the results of an evaluation of the effects of Tütü and Me, a traveling preschool program in Hawai‘i, on the quality of care offered by Native Hawaiian parents and grandparents (mäkua and tütü). Based on a family interaction ‘Play and Learn’ model, the program aims to help families prepare their children for school. Offered during an 11-month program year, the services include two-hour sessions twice a week in which the adults and children interact together in a variety of activities; Tütü Talks, mini-lectures on aspects of child development; caregiver resource centers and children’s book bags; and child assessments.”]

Full text at: <http://webstaging.bankstreet.edu/gems/naffncc/TTMfinal7.16.08.pdf>

Investing in Infants and Toddlers: The Economics of Early Childhood. By Kimberly Lucas and others. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC) rev. August 26, 2008. 6 p.

[“Given the current slowdown of our nation’s economy, much attention is being paid to the challenges faced by families grappling with the rising cost of food, transportation, and other basic necessities. While policymakers and economists are working to understand and improve these immediate economic challenges, some are also turning their focus to an economic stimulus of a different sort - investment in young children and their families. Economic researchers who study issues of human capital (education and skills) are increasingly coming to the conclusion that early childhood professionals have known all along: investing in high-quality early childhood programs reaps considerable societal savings and numerous individual and social benefits. New research on early childhood

investments provides opportunities for early childhood professionals and economists to work together to support greater investments in programs for infants, toddlers and their families. This article outlines current economic research, its application within the field of child development, and ways in which early childhood professionals and economists can partner with one another to inform the public policy process.”]

Full text at:

<http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/EconomicsofEarlyChildhood.pdf?docID=5881>

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.]

IMPROVED HEALTH

“Day-Care Attendance, Position in Sibship, and Early Childhood Wheezing: A Population-Based Birth Cohort Study.” By Nicolaos C. Nicolaou and others. IN: **Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology**, vol. 122, no. 3 (September 2008) pp. 500-506.

[“Infants and toddlers who attend day care are less likely than other children to develop asthma symptoms by age 5, a new study shows. The research adds support to the so-called ‘hygiene hypothesis’ - the idea that early exposure to infections and germs helps protect against allergies and asthma. Children in the study who entered day care between the ages of 6 and 12 months were found to have a 75% reduction in the risk of wheezing, which is considered an early symptom of asthma. Those who began day care after their first birthday were found to have a 35% reduction in risk, compared with children who did not attend day care at all. ‘Our findings suggest that this 6-to-12 month window of day care entry is especially protective, but this needs to be confirmed in other studies,’ study researcher Nicolaos C. Nicolaou, MD, tells WebMD.... Proponents of the hygiene hypothesis say it explains, in large part, why allergy and asthma rates have skyrocketed in industrialized countries as exposure to infectious agents and germs has declined. As our homes and public spaces have become cleaner, the theory goes, young children are being exposed to fewer of the germs and infectious agents that may help their developing immune systems recognize and fight allergic disease. Asthma is now the most common chronic disorder in childhood, affecting an estimated 6.2 million children in the U.S., according to the American Lung Association.” WebMD Health News (December 9, 2008.) NOTE: Day-Care Attendance... will be available for loan.]

“Awareness and Use of California's Paid Family Leave Insurance Among Parents of Chronically Ill Children.” By Mark A. Schuster and others. IN: **JAMA: the**

**Journal of the American Medical Association, vol. 300, no. 9 (September 3, 2008)
pp. 1047-1055.**

[“Parents of children with special health needs in California often are not aware that there is a paid family leave insurance program available for their use, with only 5 percent of those surveyed having used the program, according to a study in... JAMA. Chronically ill children, or children with special health care needs, comprise 13 percent to 17 percent of children in the United States, according to background information in the article. These illnesses include cerebral palsy, chronic kidney failure, congenital heart diseases, cystic fibrosis, degenerative neurological disorders and malignancies. ‘Children with special health care needs average 3 times as many medical encounters as other children, account for one-half of child hospital days, and miss nearly 3 times as much school. Their health-related needs create substantial pressure on parents to miss work,’ the authors write. In 2004, California's Paid Family Leave Insurance Program (PFLI) became the first state program to provide paid leave to care for an ill family member, providing 6 weeks of non-job-protected paid leave annually for most part-time and full-time employees at approximately 55 percent of salary. It is a government-mandated insurance program that employees pay for through automatic payroll deductions.” EurekAlert! (September 2, 2008.) NOTE: Awareness and Use... will be available for loan.]

“Stability of Psychiatric Outcomes of Low Birth Weight: A Longitudinal Investigation.” By Kipling M. Bohnert and Naomi Breslau. IN: Archives of General Psychiatry, vol. 65, no. 9 (September 2008) pp. 1080-1086.

[“Low-birth-weight children appear to be at higher risk for psychiatric disturbances from childhood through high school than normal-birth-weight children, according to a new report. In addition, low-birth-weight children from urban communities may be more likely to have attention problems than suburban low-birth-weight children.... Kipling M. Bohnert, B.A., and Naomi Breslau, Ph.D., of Michigan State University, East Lansing, examined the long-term association between low-birth-weight and psychiatric problems among 413 children from a socially disadvantaged community in Detroit and 410 children from a middle-class Detroit suburb.... Psychiatric disturbances were separated into three categories: externalizing, including delinquent and aggressive behavior; internalizing, including withdrawn behavior and anxiety/depression; and attention, including characteristic symptoms of ADHD such as not being able to pay attention for long or difficulty following directions.... ‘Attention problems at the start of schooling predict lower academic achievement later, controlling for key factors that contribute to academic test scores, which in turn predicts termination of schooling and curtailed educational attainment,’ the authors conclude.... ‘Early interventions to improve attention skills in urban low-birth-weight children might yield better outcomes later.’” ScienceDaily (September 3, 2008.) Adapted from materials provided by JAMA and Archives Journals. NOTE: Stability of Psychiatric... will be available for loan.]

CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar: What Implications Do Quality Rating and Improvement Systems Hold for Infant/Toddler Care? By the Zero to Three Policy Center and the Child Care Bureau. September 29, 2008, 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

[“Over the past several years, research and practice have taught us the importance of quality care for infants and toddlers. Many states have developed standards/guidelines that provide specific structures to implement high quality enriching environments for infants and toddlers. The National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative @ Zero to Three, a project of the Child Care Bureau, convened an Issues Meeting in May 2008 to identify key issues to consider when developing Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) that are inclusive of infants and toddlers. The Zero to Three Policy Center and the Child Care Bureau invite you to join us... for a webinar/web-based conference call on the implications of Quality Rating and Improvement Systems for infant/toddler care. This webinar will outline the discussion and recommendations from participants at the Issues Meeting. Two CCDF Administrators will share their perspectives on implications for their states' QRIS.... A recording of the webinar and supporting materials will be posted on the Zero to Three website... for those who are unable to attend the live event.”]

For more information and to register: <http://www.zerotothree.org/policywebinars>

Growing with Integrity: Working Forum on Managing Performance in Multi-Site Early Childhood Organizations. Co-hosted by the World Forum Foundation and the Early Care and Education Consortium. October 22-24, 2008. Kauai Marriott Resort and Beach Club, Lihue, Hawaii.

[“In October, 2008, leaders from 200 early childhood organizations providing services to over 500,000 families on five continents will convene in Hawaii to share ideas on how to grow an organization with integrity. The following themes will be explored: Sustaining Quality in Multi-Site Organizations; Developing and Sustaining the Early Childhood Workforce; Maintaining Organizational Culture in Changing Times; Consistently Meeting Customer Needs and Expectations. Who should attend? This Working Forum is designed for leaders in programs providing services for young children in multiple locations anywhere in the world. Leaders from non-profit, for profit and government/community-operated organizations operating anywhere from 5 to 2,000 sites will find this a valuable experience.”]

For more information and to register:
http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2008_multisite/index.php

NAEHCY 20th Annual Conference. By the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. November 1-3, 2008 - Preconference, October 31, 2008. Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Washington, D.C.

[“The conference theme is ‘Making It Crystal Clear: Educating All Our Children and Youth’ and promises a unique showcase for best practices and services from across the country. It is the only national conference dedicated to improving the well-being of homeless children and youth. NAEHCY’s conference equips educators and advocates nationwide with the knowledge, skills, information, and inspiration they need to remove barriers and help ensure that every child and youth experiencing homelessness is successful - academically, personally, and socially.... presentations will include these topics among many others: ... Developing a Comprehensive Homeless Education Program - Replicable examples from around the country; ... Addressing the Early Education and Child Care Needs of Young Children Without Homes.... NAEHCY will offer 11 in-depth workshops on serving special populations or dealing with particular issues.... Sessions will cover: ... Serving Homeless Children through Head Start; Accessing Early Childhood Education: Learning Blocks and Practical Strategies.”]

For more information and to register: http://www.naehcy.org/conf/conf_2008.html

23rd National Training Institute - “Connecting Science, Policy and Practice: Improving Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers.” Sponsored by Zero to Three. December 5-7, 2008, pre-institute December 4, 2008. Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles, California.

[“Every year, Zero to Three provides an opportunity for professionals to enhance their knowledge about early childhood development through our National Training Institute (NTI). The NTI is the most comprehensive multidisciplinary conference in the infant-family field, focusing on cutting-edge research, best practices, and policy issues for infants, toddlers and families.... early bird rates by registering before September 26!”]

For more information and to register: <http://www.zttnticonference.org/>

Using Music to Teach Mathematics Grants for Grades K–2 Teachers. Supported by the Esther Mendlesohn Fund and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Application deadline: November 14, 2008.

[“The purpose of this grant is to incorporate music into the elementary school classroom to help young students learn mathematics. For 2009–2010, grants with a maximum of \$3,000 each will be awarded to persons currently teaching mathematics in grades K–2 level. This award is for individual classroom teachers* or small groups of teachers collaborating in one grade or across grade levels. Any acquisition of equipment must support the proposed plan but not be the primary focus of the grant. Proposals must address the following: the combining of mathematics and music; the plan for improving students’ learning of mathematics; and the anticipated impact on students’ achievement. (*The definition of a classroom teacher is an individual who spends half or more of his/her work time teaching in the classroom.)”]

For more information: <http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1318>

2009 Youth Garden Grants™ Program. By the National Gardening Association and Home Depot. Application deadline: November 1, 2008.

[“NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements: educational focus or curricular/program integration; nutrition or plant-to-food connections; environmental awareness/education; entrepreneurship; social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Who should apply: Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 years.” Grants from \$250.00 - \$1,000.00 in gift cards.]

For more information: <http://www.kidsgardening.org/YGG.asp>