



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

Role, Relevance, Reinvention: Higher Education in the Field of Early Care and Education. By Valora Washington. (Wheelock College, Boston, Massachusetts) September 2008. 43 p.

[This paper, “sponsored by eight national organizations, including Pre-K Now, highlights the gap between children's immense potential during the early years and the limited capacity in the higher education community to develop high-quality early childhood educators who can make the most of this potential. The paper calls for action from higher education leaders, policymakers, and the rank-and-file members of the early childhood community to create teacher preparation systems that reflect the level of expertise needed to work with young children. Specific issues discussed include increasing the quality and diversity of early childhood faculty, upgrading curriculum standards, providing financial and other academic supports that help students complete their teacher preparation programs successfully, and providing credit for previous coursework or related work experience. The report also offers several examples of what might be achieved if policymakers, constituents, and educational leaders were to work together.” Pre-K Picks (October 9, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.cayl.org/files/Role%20Relevance%20Reinvention.pdf>

Preschool Education and Its Lasting Effects: Research and Policy Implications. By W. Steven Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research. (Education and the Public Interest Center, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, and Education Policy Research Unit, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona) September 2008. 37 p.

[This paper “reviews the literature on the lasting effects of early education. Among the three general types of early education programs reviewed - child care, Head Start, and state- or locally-funded pre-k - the paper finds that child care has the lowest impact on children in terms of cognitive gains. There is evidence, mostly from programs that serve low-income children, that Head Start and pre-k programs have more long-term benefits for children, such as higher graduation rates and fewer arrests as juveniles and adults. The author cautions against concluding that pre-k has no lasting benefits because some studies have found little or no difference in later test scores between children who attended pre-k and those who did not. Such results may say more about the limitations of the studies than about the effects of pre-k. For instance, in some of these studies, children without pre-k may receive an unintended advantage over their peers who attended pre-k. Since students in the ‘no pre-k’ group are more likely to get held back or be placed in special education, the ‘low performers’ tend to be removed from the sample at each grade level. This skews the test scores for the ‘no pre-k’ group upward, making it appear that they are catching up over time to children who attended pre-k.” Pre-K Picks (October 9, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://nieer.org/resources/research/PreschoolLastingEffects.pdf>

“School Readiness Gains Made by Ethnically Diverse Children in Poverty Attending Center-Based Childcare and Public School Pre-Kindergarten Programs.” By Adam Winsler, George Mason University, and others. IN: *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, vol. 23, no. 3 (2008) pp. 314-329.

[“Although intensive early childhood interventions and high quality preschool programs have been shown to foster children's school readiness, little is known about the school readiness gains made by ethnically and linguistically diverse children in poverty receiving subsidies to attend center-based childcare or those in public school pre-kindergarten programs. Within the context of a large-scale, university–community applied research and evaluation project, The Miami School Readiness Project, children receiving subsidies to attend center-based childcare..., children attending free Title 1 public school pre-k programs..., and children attending fee-supported public school pre-k programs... were individually assessed at the beginning and end of their pre-kindergarten year in the areas of cognitive, language, and fine motor development. Parents and teachers reported on children's socio-emotional strengths and behavior concerns. Findings revealed that although children from all types of programs made considerable school readiness gains in most areas in terms of their national relative standing, children attending public school pre-k programs typically made somewhat greater gains in the

areas of cognitive and language development. Results suggest that center-based childcare programs in the community may be beneficial for fostering school readiness within ethnically diverse children in poverty, and that public school pre-kindergarten programs may show even greater gains in some areas. Policy implications are discussed.” NOTE: School Readiness... is available for loan.]

Effective Communication about the Early Years: Strategies for Becoming a Better Communicator. By Debbie M. Rappaport. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC) October 13, 2008. 6 p.

[“When it comes to building relationships with young children, we all know that effective communication is vitally important. The same is true for the relationships we build when advocating on behalf of infants, toddlers and their families. Effective communication can make the difference between a successful advocacy effort and one that never reaches the people making policy decisions. This article in the framing series addresses strategies that infant-toddler professionals can use to become better communicators about the early years.” The Baby Monitor (October 13, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/FramingFive.pdf?docID=6241>

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

The Well-Being of Children in Working Poor and Other Families: 1997 and 2004. By Richard Wertheimer and others. Research Brief. No. 2008-33. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) September 2008. 8 p.

[“Greater work effort by poor families is associated with better child outcomes, according to new Child Trends analyses of the Survey of Income and Program Participation. The Well-Being of Children in Working Poor and Other Families... finds: - Between 1997 and 2004, the well-being of children in working poor families improved significantly for 10 of the 15 measures available in both years and remained stable for the remaining measures. - In contrast, the well-being of children in non-working poor families improved significantly for only five measures and deteriorated significantly for four measures. - While the well-being of children in working poor families was not consistently better than for children in non-working poor families in 1997, by 2004, children in working poor families fared better than children in non-working poor families for 12 of the 17 measures available for that year. At the time welfare reform was implemented in 1997, there was concern that increased work by mothers, in response to the work requirements imposed by the new Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, might lead to deterioration in child well-being, since mothers would have less time available to spend with their children. While work effort of single mothers did indeed increase, the findings reported here suggest instead that many child well-being

measures have risen for children in working poor families.” Child Trends E-Newsletter (September 30, 2008.)]

Full text at:

http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_09_29_RB_WorkingPoor.pdf

“Paraprofessional Home Visitors’ Perspectives on Addressing Poor Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Domestic Violence: A Qualitative Study.” By S. Darius Tandon, Johns Hopkins University, and others. IN: Early Childhood Research Quarterly, vol. 23, no. 3 (2008) pp. 419-428.

[“This research was conducted to understand paraprofessional home visitors’ perceptions of their training in addressing poor mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence, and their actions in working with families in addressing these issues. Five focus groups were conducted with a total of 28 paraprofessional home visitors. Three main themes emerged from qualitative analysis. Home visitors experienced tension between addressing families’ more pressing needs such as housing or utilities and addressing poor mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Home visitors felt that they received extensive training in these risk areas, but that this training focused heavily on knowledge acquisition rather than skill development. Home visitors also desired more guidance in addressing families’ poor mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence concerns - namely, more clarity on the extent to which they should address these issues during visits and more and varied supervision. Home visitors need more training on how to initiate conversations about mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence, including how to transition conversations from other client needs. Home visiting programs must clarify home visitors’ roles in addressing clients’ poor mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence and provide additional and varied supervision to home visitors.” NOTE: Paraprofessional home visitors’ ... is available for loan.]

Mapping Community Data on Children of Prisoners: Strategies and Insights. By Diana Brazzell and Nancy G. La Vigne. (Urban Institute, Washington, DC) September 2008. 8 p.

[“Children of incarcerated parents are often an invisible population, but analyzing and mapping local-level data on these children and their parents can help policymakers and advocates better understand their experiences and needs. This brief discusses the mapping of community data on these families, drawing on the experiences and insights of partners in the Urban Institute’s Reentry Mapping Network (RMN). The brief discusses the value of analyzing and mapping data on children of incarcerated parents, outlines potential data sources, and explores the process of working with and mapping data on this population.”]

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411766_mapping_community.pdf

Basic Facts about Low-Income Children. By Ayana Douglas-Hall and Michelle Chau. (National Center for Children in Poverty, New York, New York) October 2008.

[“The data for 2007 are in and the numbers tell a troubling story: nearly four out of every 10 American children are growing up in families that face serious struggles to make ends meet. Parental employment, parental education, family structure and other variables each play an important role in predicting the likelihood that a child will endure economic hardship.”]

Birth to Age 3: 4 p. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_849.pdf

Birth to Age 6: 4 p. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_847.pdf

Birth to Age 18: 4 p. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_845.pdf

Teen Births: Examining the Recent Increase. By Kristin Anderson Moore, Child Trends. (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, Washington, DC and Child Trends, Washington, DC) October 2008. 22 p.

[“New data for 2006 from the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that the 14-year decline in the U.S. teen birth rate has reversed, and both the number of births to teens and the teen birth rate have risen. Between 2005 and 2006, the teen birth rate rose 3 percent, from 40.5 to 41.9 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19. The number of births to teens also rose by 20,834, from 414,593 to 435,427 births. This news was disappointing to parents, policy makers, advocates, service providers, and researchers around the country. Many conversations have ensued - including a meeting convened by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy in January, 2008 - to explore whether the data reflect a blip or a true reversal and what factors might explain the apparent loss of momentum. This paper reports on that conversation and considers available evidence on whether and why the teen birth rate rose between 2005 and 2006. It also raises data and research issues that should be explored to sharpen the discussion and strengthen public and private prevention efforts.”]

Full text at:

http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2008_10_03_FR_TeenBirthsIncrease.pdf

IMPROVED HEALTH

Podcast: Investing in Children's Health and Development. New Directions in Health Care: The Commonwealth Fund Podcast series. (The Fund, New York, New York) October 2, 2008. Podcast length: 7:40.

[“Less than half of children with developmental problems, including speech and language delays, mental retardation, learning disabilities, and emotional and behavioral problems, are identified before starting school. But the early identification and treatment of such problems can help prevent them from becoming costly and intractable issues later.... Robbie Harris looks at the impact in Iowa of the Commonwealth Fund-supported Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) initiative, which was designed to improve the delivery of developmental services through policy and practice change in selected states. In Iowa, a focus on developmental screening, as well as on the mental health of the family and referrals to appropriate providers for treatment, has led to more comprehensive care. Listen to the podcast to hear from Neva Kaye, senior program director of the National Academy for State Health Policy, Mary Nauman, director of primary care at Medical Associates in Dubuque, and others on the frontlines of this effort to improve developmental services for young children.” The Commonwealth Fund E-Alert (October 3, 2008.)]

Podcast at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/podcasts/>

America’s Health Starts with Healthy Children: How do States Compare? By Susan Egerter, University of California, San Francisco, Center on Social Disparities in Health, and others. (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America, Washington, DC) October 2008. 32 p.

[“Across the country and within every state, there are substantial shortfalls in the health of children based on their family's income and education, says a ... report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America. The report is the first to rank states on infant mortality and children's health status based on key social factors, and it shows that as parent's income and levels of education rise, children's health improves. The report... highlights the important role that income and education play in the health of America's children. It shows the unrealized health potential possible if all children had the same opportunities for health as those in the most well-off families. In almost every state and the District of Columbia, children in the poorest and least educated households suffer the worst health outcomes. But even middle-class children and children in well-off families are not as healthy as they could be.”]

Full text at: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/commissionchildrenshealthchartbook.pdf>

Partners for Child Passenger Safety: Fact and Trend Report. By the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. (The Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) September 2008. 12 p.

[“Child restraint use is higher than ever, according to a report... by The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and The Association for International Automobile Manufacturers (AIAM). Over an 8 year period, from 1999 to 2007, researchers noted that

overall child restraint use increased from 51 percent to 80 percent among children younger than 9. During this same period, age appropriate restraint use, including booster seats, among children 4 to 8 years old quadrupled from 15 percent appropriately restrained in 1999 to 63 percent in 2007. These statistics are included in the 2008 Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS) Fact and Trend Report, a snapshot of the milestones reached over a decade of research tracking children involved in real-world motor vehicle crashes. The PCPS Fact and Trend Report assesses data from the world's largest study of children in automobile crashes based on cases identified from State Farm Insurance Companies from 1998-2007. Taking the long view, researchers can identify the protective benefits of improved technologies, legislation, and education over time and also can point out where improvements are still needed." The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (September 22, 2008.)]

Full text at: http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/injury/files/PCPS_Reports/2008_FT.pdf

Effectiveness of Weight Management Programs in Children and Adolescents. By Evelyn P. Whitlock, Oregon Evidence-Based Practice Center, and others. Evidence Report/Technology Assessment. No. 170. (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, Maryland) September 2008. 308 p.

[“Effectiveness of Weight Management Programs in Children and Adolescents’ examines the effectiveness and safety of behavioral, pharmacological, and surgical treatments for children and adolescents (ages 2-18) who are overweight or obese. The review is based on research conducted by the Oregon Evidence-Based Practice Center under contract to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and builds on a previous review conducted by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force in 2005. The content focuses on five questions that address various measures of the health impact of treatments to reduce or stabilize weight. The measures include short-term impacts on weight control (6 to 12 months after enrolling in treatment); maintenance of weight changes in the medium-term (1 to 5 years after enrollment) or longer-term (5 or more years after enrollment); adverse effects of treatment (immediate and over time); beneficial effects of treatment, aside from weight control or weight loss; and treatment components or other factors that influence the effectiveness of treatments. The review is intended to help clinicians, employers, policymakers, and others make informed decisions about the provision of health care services.” MCH Alert (October 10, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/downloads/pub/evidence/pdf/childweight/chweight.pdf>

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Developing America's Potential: An Agenda for High-Quality Child Care. By the National Women's Law Center and others. (The Center, Washington, DC) [2008] 7 p.

[“This Agenda is the product of a historic collaboration of national and state organizations that has worked to craft a shared ‘blueprint’ for the future of child care. It offers a solid framework for guiding the reauthorization for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and other opportunities for child care improvement in the new administration and new Congress. The Agenda recognizes that high-quality child care helps children, families and communities prosper. It helps children learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life. It gives parents the support and peace of mind they need to be productive at work. And it helps our nation stay competitive, by producing a stronger workforce now and in the future. But for many families - especially, but not only, low-income families - high-quality child care is unaffordable or unattainable. This ‘Agenda for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care’ proposes comprehensive reforms to ensure safe, healthy and affordable child care that promotes early learning and increased federal funding to make this possible.”]

Full text at: <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/NewChildCareAgenda.pdf>

[NOTE: See “Conferences” below for an upcoming webinar on this Agenda.]

Supporting a Diverse and Culturally Competent Workforce: Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care Research-Based Rationale. By Hannah Matthews. (CLASP, Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, DC) September 2008. 13 p.

[“As part of the Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care project, the Center for Law and Social Policy has released ‘Supporting a Diverse and Culturally Competent Workforce: Research-Based Rationale.’ This rationale offers research on how cultural identity and language skills relate to healthy development, as well as how a diverse and culturally competent child care workforce can support children's development.” The Baby Monitor (October 13, 2008.)]

Full text at: http://www.clasp.org/publications/cp_rationale5.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.]

“Substance Abuse Intervention for Parents Involved in the Child Welfare System: Evidence and Implications,” by Kathy Lemon Osterling and Michael J. Austin. IN: Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, vol. 5, no. 1-2 (2008) pp. 157-189.

[“In an effort to determine the types of treatment approaches most effective with substance abusing parents in the child welfare system, a new study examined both

individual-level interventions and system-level collaborative efforts between the child welfare and the alcohol and other drug (AOD) systems. The literature review identified a number of evidence-based program components and collaborative models associated with positive outcomes. For individual-level interventions, these components included: Women-centered treatment that involves children; Specialized health and mental health services; Home visitation services; Concrete support and assistance (e.g., transportation, child care); Short-term targeted interventions; Comprehensive and holistic interventions.” Children’s Bureau Express (October 2008). NOTE: Substance Abuse Intervention... will be available for loan.]

CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Early Intervention Academy. Sponsored by Beginning Together, The Center for Child and Family Studies, WestEd. December 2-3, 2008. San Luis Obispo, California.

[“The training academy is a two-day experience that includes seminars, small-group work, video presentations, and other exchanges. The academy will focus on how California’s new standards document, “Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations (Foundations),” and the new program guidelines, “Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Program Guidelines (Program Guidelines),” can inform early intervention providers as they support children in natural environments.”]

For more information: <http://www.cainclusivechildcare.org/bt/index.html>

Webcast: The Real Costs of Teen Motherhood. Thursday’s Child Forum. Panelists include Sarah Brown, National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, and others. Thursday, October 23, 2008, 7:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Program length: 1.5 hours.

[“Today, three female teenagers out of every ten become pregnant at least once before they turn 20. Teen pregnancy rates are highest among those who are unmarried, and from families that are low-income, minority, and with lower levels of education. Panelists will discuss the effects teen childbearing has on the life trajectories of the mother and child, the costs to government agencies aiding teens’ children, and the increased risks these children face, including maltreatment, being placed into foster care, and incarceration. Private and public programs that reduce teen pregnancy, help teen mothers avoid bearing a second child, and change teen behavior will be explored. An audio recording of the event will be posted at <http://www.urban.org/events/thursdayschild/October2008.cfm> for those who cannot attend.” Urban Institute Update (October 9, 2008.)]

For more information and to register:

<http://www.urban.org/events/thursdayschild/October2008.cfm>

Webinar: Developing America's Potential: An Agenda for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care. By the National Women's Law Center and others. Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Webinar length: 1 hour.

[“The agenda, ‘Developing America’s Potential: An Agenda for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care,’ recognizes that high-quality child care helps children, families, and communities prosper. It helps children learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life. It gives parents the support and peace of mind they need to be productive at work. And it helps our nation stay competitive, by producing a stronger workforce now and in the future. Join us for a webinar where we will discuss the content of this agenda and its relationship to new legislation.”]

For more information and to register:

[http://action.nwlc.org/site/Survey?SURVEY_ID=4140&ACTION_REQUIRED=URI ACTION_USER_REQUESTS](http://action.nwlc.org/site/Survey?SURVEY_ID=4140&ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS)

Grants: Relatives as Parents Program. By the Brookdale Foundation. Deadline for local and regional proposals: December 4, 2008. Deadline for state proposals: January 7, 2009.

[“The Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) was initiated in 1996. It is designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting due to the absence of the parents. The program awards seed grants of \$10,000 over a two-year period in three categories: local, regional, and state public agencies.”]

For more information:

<http://www.brookdalefoundation.org/RAPP/rapp.html>