



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; 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

The Cost Burden to Minnesota K-12 when Children are Unprepared for Kindergarten. By Richard Chase and others. Prepared for the Bush Foundation. (Wilder Research, Saint Paul, Minnesota) December 2008. 32 p.

[“Findings from a Bush Foundation cost-benefit study in Minnesota peg the costs incurred by the state's K-12 system due to children who are unprepared for kindergarten at \$113 million. That's a big piece of the \$377 million the study estimates it would cost to provide two years of high-quality pre-K to all low-income 3-year-olds not currently getting early education.” NIEER Online Newsletter (January 16, 2009.)]

Summary at: 2 p. <http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=2117&summary=1>

Full text at: <http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=2117>

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The Condition of Latinos in Education: 2008 Factbook. By Deborah Santiago. (Excelencia in Education, Washington, DC) December 2008. 50 p.

Full text at: http://www.edexcelencia.org/pdf/publications/2008_Factbook.pdf

[“Hispanic representation in the early childhood population is larger than all other minority groups combined. In 2006, Hispanics represented 23% of the population under five years of age, while blacks, Asian, and Native Americans combined equaled 19% of the population.... Hispanic children under age five were less likely to be enrolled in early childhood education programs than other groups. In 2005-06, about half of Hispanic children under five (49%) were in a center-based setting as their primary type of early education and care, compared to 60% or more of their white, black, Asian, or American Indian/Alaska Native peers.”]

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A Renewed Head Start: New Opportunities for Latino Children. By Erika Beltran and Amy Goldwasser. (National Council of La Raza, Washington, DC) 2008. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/detail/55045/>

[“On December 12, 2007, President Bush signed into law the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-134). This was the first reauthorization of Head Start in nearly ten years. Given the growing diversity and rapidly changing demographics across the country, Latino children and families had a lot at stake in the reauthorization process of the nation’s premier early childhood education program. This white paper highlights the new provisions found in the bill which, if well implemented, could significantly improve services for Latino children. Specifically, this paper:

- Provides an overview of issues related to Latinos’ and LEPs’ access to high-quality Head Start programs and services
- Discusses how these challenges are addressed in the new legislation
- Recommends strategies for effective implementation to best meet the needs of Hispanic children.” National Council of La Raza.]

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“Harlem's Man with the Plan.” By Paul Tough. IN: *Mother Jones*, vol. 34, no. 1 (January/February 2009) pp. 48-49.

Full text at: <http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2009/01/man-with-the-plan.html>

[“The Zone is the brainchild of Geoffrey Canada, an African American man in his mid-50s who grew up in extreme poverty in the South Bronx.... The Harlem Children's Zone takes a holistic approach, following children from cradle to college, mimicking the

cocoon of stimulation and support that surrounds middle-class children. The Zone now enrolls more than 8,000 children a year in its various programs, which cover a 97-block section of central Harlem. ‘We’re not interested in saving 100 kids,’ Canada told me once. ‘Even 300 kids. Even 1,000 kids to me is not going to do it. We want to be able to talk about how you save kids by the tens of thousands, because that’s how we’re losing them. We’re losing kids by the tens of thousands.’ Canada believes that many poor parents aren’t doing enough to prepare their kids for school - not because they don’t care, but because they simply don’t know the importance of early childhood stimulation. So the Zone starts with Baby College, nine weeks of parenting classes that focus on discipline and brain development. It continues with language-intensive prekindergarten, which feeds into a rigorous K-12 charter school with an extended day and an extended year.... Obama’s proposal is to replicate the Harlem Children’s Zone in 20 cities across the country.”]

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Getting Ready for School: Palm Beach County’s Early Childhood Cluster Initiative: Program Implementation and Early Outcomes: Year 3 Report. By Julie Spielberger and others. (Chapin Hall, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois) 2009. 167 p.

Full text and Executive Summary (22 p.) at:

http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1451%20

(Free registration required.)

[“Chapin Hall’s multiyear evaluation of a Palm Beach County, Florida, initiative to provide low-income children with a high-quality, year-round preschool experience, discusses the progress made during its third year of implementation. The Early Childhood Cluster Initiative consists of an evidence-based education curriculum enacted by trained and certified teachers, low teacher-child ratios, and an intensive program of activities designed to strengthen parent involvement.” Chapin Hall Alert (January 23, 2009.)]

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IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

“The Role of Preschool Home-Visiting Programs in Improving Children’s Developmental and Health Outcomes.” By the Council on Community Pediatrics. IN: Pediatrics, vol. 123, no. 2 (February 2009) pp. 598-603.

Full text at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/123/2/598>

[“Child health and developmental outcomes depend to a large extent on the capabilities of families to provide a nurturing, safe environment for their infants and young children. Unfortunately, many families have insufficient knowledge about parenting skills and an inadequate support system of friends, extended family, or professionals to help with or

advise them regarding child rearing. Home-visiting programs offer a mechanism for ensuring that at-risk families have social support, linkage with public and private community services, and ongoing health, developmental, and safety education. When these services are part of a system of high-quality well-child care linked or integrated with the pediatric medical home, they have the potential to mitigate health and developmental outcome disparities. This statement reviews the history of home visiting in the United States and reaffirms the support of the American Academy of Pediatrics for home-based parenting education and support.”]

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Early Intervention: Good Parents, Great Kids, Better Citizens. By Graham Allen and Iain Duncan Smith. (Published jointly by the Centre for Social Justice and the Smith Institute, London, England) 2008. 134 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/EarlyInterventionpaperFINAL.pdf>

[“The transmission of parenting skills from generation to generation has changed considerably and while the middle classes can read the guide books, those with lower educational and social skills are finding parenting skills squeezed out as extended families reduce and more one-parent households have smaller knowledge bases on which to draw.... The approach we are recommending aims for prevention by Early Intervention: prevention of ill-preparedness for school and other learning environments; prevention of the adoption of the violent behaviour that makes toddlers anti-social, school children unmanageable and ends up with young people languishing in prison; prevention of the physical and mental problems which will perpetuate the cycle of dysfunction.... It is as simple - and as difficult - as making sure that very young children 0-3 receive nurture, warmth and attention from parents which might also require that parents themselves were helped by appropriate packages of intervention as they grew up from 0-18. This is a defining aspect to which we will repeatedly return: our Early Intervention package is designed to help those who will raise the next generation of children, rather than applying sticking plasters to today’s problems.”]

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IMPROVED HEALTH

Left Behind: America's Uninsured Children. By Families USA. (Families USA, Washington, DC) November 2008. 20 p.

[“One in nine children in America is uninsured, according to a new Families USA's report. The vast majority of uninsured children - 88.2 percent - come from families where at least one parent works and five states (Texas, California, Florida, New York and

Georgia) account for nearly half of all uninsured children in the country.” CFK Update (January 14, 2009.)]

Full text at: <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/uninsured-kids-2008/national-report.pdf>

Related materials: <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/left-behind-report-intro.html>

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Getting and Keeping Coverage: States’ Experience with Citizenship Documentation Rules. By Laura Summer, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute. (Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York) January 2009. 30 p.

[“Federal regulations, which took effect in mid-2006, require that individuals provide proof of citizenship when applying for or renewing coverage under public health insurance options such as Medicaid. This report examines the impact that these citizenship documentation rules have had on coverage stability in the public programs of seven states - Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, Ohio, Virginia, and Washington - and it finds that the rules have made the getting and keeping of children and families’ coverage more difficult. The new requirements increased the complexity, administrative burden, and costs of enrollment and renewal in each state, and in some cases the rules even compromised other processes. The rules’ specific effects on applicants and enrollees differed in each state, depending on the state’s circumstances, its approach to implementing the rules, and its organizational and technological capacity. But some of the positive activity that occurred can be replicated elsewhere and extended.”]

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Summer_gettingkeepingcoverage_1218.pdf?section=4039

Chartpack: 14 p.

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Summer_gettingkeepingcoverage_figures.pdf?section=4039

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Setting Income Thresholds in Medicaid/SCHIP: Which Children Should Be Eligible? By Genevieve Kenney and Jennifer Pelletier, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) January 2009. 7 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411817_setting_income_thresholds.pdf

[“As the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is being considered, important policy questions will include where eligibility thresholds

should be set for public coverage and how much latitude states should have in setting their thresholds. The original SCHIP bill targeted children with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). For families at that income level in 1996, just before SCHIP was enacted, employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) premiums for family health insurance coverage made up 16 percent of income on average for a family of four. Since then, health insurance costs have risen so much that for families at 300 percent of the FPL, ESI premiums for family coverage now make up 19 percent of income on average for a family of four. Put differently, ESI coverage is less affordable for families at 300 percent of the FPL today than it was for families at 200 percent of the FPL when SCHIP was passed. In addition, the large differences in cost of living that prevail both across and within states mean that imposing a single eligibility threshold nationally would place families in higher-cost areas at a disadvantage.”]

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“Policies and Characteristics of the Preschool Environment and Physical Activity of Young Children.” By Marsha Dowda and others. IN: *Pediatrics*, vol. 123, no. 2 (February 2009) pp. e261-e266.

Full text at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/123/2/e261>

[“The purpose of this study was to examine policies and characteristics of preschools and the extent to which they influence the physical activity of 3- to 5-year-old children during the preschool day.... Results. Children spent fewer minutes per hour in sedentary activity and more minutes per hour in moderate/vigorous physical activity in preschools that had higher quality scores, less fixed playground equipment, more portable playground equipment, lower use of electronic media, and larger playgrounds. Five preschools had all 5 of these characteristics, and children in those preschools had significantly more moderate/vigorous physical activity minutes per hour and fewer sedentary minutes per hour compared with children in the other preschools.”]

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Audio Recording: Health Care Reform and Children: The Prognosis for Change in 2009. Sponsored by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and the Urban Institute. Thursday’s Child public policy forum, January 15, 2009. Program length: 1.5 hours.

Recording at:

<http://www.about.chapinhall.org/conferences/urban/jan2009/conference.html>

[“This Thursday’s Child public policy forum in Washington, DC, explored the process and politics of enacting children’s health policy within the current economic crisis. A panel of experts discussed the future of the popular State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which will receive a multiyear reauthorization this year, and how federal and state governments might handle the challenges that will inevitably emerge

when the interests of young people are integrated into large-scale health reform.” Chapin Hall Alert (January 23, 2009.)]

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IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Diversity and Stratification in California's Early Care and Education Workforce, by Marcy Whitebook and others. Research Brief. (Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California at Berkeley) November 2008. 9 p.

Full text at: http://www.irlle.berkeley.edu/cscce/pdf/diversity_stratification08.pdf

[“Using data from the [California Early Care and Education] Workforce Study, this policy brief finds that the ethnic and linguistic diversity of California's ECE workforce is stratified by educational level and job role - i.e., it is disproportionately concentrated in some areas of the field more than others. The brief discusses the implications of these findings for workforce development, higher education, and the ability of ECE programs to address the needs of diverse children and families.” CSCCE.]

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What Program Providers want Funders to Know. By Kristin Anderson Moore. Publication No. 2009-02. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) January 2009. 3 p.

Full text at:

http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2009_01_16_PI_PrgmProvFunders.pdf

[“This brief shares several themes that emerged from Child Trends' Practitioner Roundtables. Not surprisingly, Roundtable participants identified funding as an overriding concern. But they also shared other concerns that affect their abilities to implement effective programs, including the difficulties in attracting, training, and retaining highly qualified staff; the challenges associated with being accountable to funders; the need for greater flexibility to meet program needs; the importance of measuring positive outcomes in addition to academic outcomes; and the organizational dilemmas faced by small programs. The brief includes suggestions to funders from practitioners.” Child Trends E-Newsletter (January 21, 2009.)]

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What Program Providers want Researchers to Know. By Kristin Anderson Moore. Publication No. 2009-03. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) January 2009. 4 p.

Full text at: http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2009_01_16_PI_PrgmProvResearchers.pdf

[“Many researchers would like to be helpful to out-of-school time programs, and practitioners see a need for good research. Yet communication between researchers and practitioners can be a challenge. In a recent series of Roundtables to discuss program needs and research evaluations held with program practitioners, Child Trends obtained important insights into how researchers can be useful to program providers. Reporting findings briefly and clearly, for example, was one piece of the advice they directed at researchers. This brief summarizes the findings from these Roundtables.”]

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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 CHILD DEVELOPMENT

“Five Fruit and Vegetables and Five Praises a Day: The Case for a Proactive Approach.” By Carole Sutton and Martin Herbert. IN: Community Practitioner, vol. 81, no. 4 (April 2008) pp. 19-22.

[“While it is now accepted that eating five fruit and vegetables a day boosts good physical health, a campaign to encourage mums and dads to praise their children five times a day to emphasis their positive mental health is being launched by leading academics. Dr Carole Sutton... suggests that frequent warm praises can lead to positive mental health during childhood and later life. Based on her work with families and international research, Dr Sutton emphasises the importance of remembering to praise socially desirable behaviour and setting clear boundaries enabling children to learn how their parents want them to behave.... If children are praised at least five times day it will help them have a child who is healthier emotionally and is better behaved.... Praise can take many forms. It could be verbal praise where a parent uses words of approval, congratulation, pride, and encouragement. It could even be physical praise such as a smile, a hug, a pat on the back or a hand shake.... Dr Sutton believes that the message of five fruits and vegetables and five praises a day is so vital that parents, health visitors, teachers and others who care for young children should be encouraged to adopt this behaviour. She quotes the comments of a mother using this approach for just one month. ‘His behaviour is ten times better. He’s happier. His speech is coming on and he said ‘I love you’. The change is brilliant...” De Montfort University news release (March 11, 2008.) NOTE: Five Fruit and Vegetables... will be available for loan.]

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“Fostering family resiliency: a review of the key protective factors.” By Karen Benzies and Richelle Mychasiuk. IN: Child and Family Social Work, vol. 14, no. 1 (February 2009) pp. 103-114.

[“The aim of this integrative review was to identify the protective factors that contribute to family resiliency.... Family resiliency does not develop through evasion of risk, but through successful application of protective factors to engage in adverse situations and emerge from them stronger. In an effort to move away from pathological labeling, this review provides a foundation for strength-based family interventions. Thirteen peer-reviewed databases were searched for articles and information regarding family resiliency. Careful review yielded 24 protective factors that foster resiliency across three distinct but interactive levels: individual, family and community. The protective factors identified in this review of the literature offer an excellent starting point for development of clinical interventions to support family resiliency.” NOTE: Fostering family resiliency... will be available for loan.]

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IMPROVED HEALTH

“Longitudinal Study of Physical Activity and Inactivity in Preschoolers: The FLAME Study.” By Rachael Taylor and others. IN: Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, vol. 41, no. 1 (January 2009) pp. 96-102.

[“Childhood obesity is a growing problem, and new research suggests that physical activity levels among youngsters already begin a decline before they start school. In a study of 244 New Zealand children, researchers found that the children's daily exercise levels generally declined between the ages of 3 and 5, while their time in front of the TV or in other sedentary activities stayed consistent. Using both parents' reports and an objective measure of daily activity - a wearable monitor that records the body's movements - the researchers found that exercise levels dipped among both boys and girls by the age of 5. Meanwhile, the children spent an average of 90 minutes per day in front of the TV or computer, with another 90 minutes devoted to other sedentary activities like reading and drawing.” Reuters Health (January 12, 2009.) NOTE: Longitudinal Study of Physical Activity... will be available for loan.]

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“Do Sack Lunches Provided by Parents Meet the Nutritional Needs of Young Children Who Attend Child Care?” By Sara J. Sweitzer and others. IN: Journal of the American Dietetic Association, vol. 109, no. 1 (January 2009) pp. 141-144.

[“It's long been assumed that sack lunches brought from home are generally nutritionally superior to the ones served at schools and day-care facilities. Parents always pack such healthful foods as fresh fruits and vegetables, right? That may not be the case, according to a new study that examined what was in some of those bag lunches and found many

came up short. In the study, researchers examined made-at-home lunches of 74 children ages 3 to 5 who attended licensed child-care facilities in Texas. They made note of what was in the children's lunches over three days, and the information was analyzed to determine the calorie content, how many contained fruits and vegetables, plus the protein, carbohydrate and dietary fiber content and vitamin and mineral makeup. These amounts were analyzed using Dietary Reference Intakes, nutrient reference values used in calculating and planning diets, and Child and Adult Care Food Program standards. More than 50% of the lunches provided less than 33% of the DRI for calories, carbohydrates, vitamin A, calcium, iron and zinc, and 96% had less than 33% of the DRI for fiber. The meals fell short on fruits and vegetables, too: 71% did not meet CACFP standards for fruit and vegetable servings. The lunches weren't lacking in sodium, however - those levels were 114% of the DRI." Los Angeles Times (January 8, 2009.)
NOTE: Do Sack Lunches Provide... will be available for loan.]

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CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

RAND Community Conference on Early Childhood Issues. "Taking Stock: California's Investment in Early Childhood Education and Possible Short-Term Effects of the Budget Crunch." Co-sponsored by RAND Corporation and the City of Santa Monica Child Care and Early Education Task Force. Saturday, January 31, 2008. Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Program: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California.

For more information: <http://www.rand.org/events/2009/01/31/invite.html>

[“California has fallen behind on many key indicators of education performance, prompting policymakers to look for strategies to improve student outcomes. Among the policy options being considered is the possibility of expanding public funding for preschool education as part of a broader agenda of education reform. To provide a foundation for evaluating the potential of such an expansion and how best to implement it, the RAND Corporation is undertaking the California Preschool Study.... Principal investigator Lynn Karoly will present a comprehensive summary of all published findings to date.... Following the research presentation, a panel of state and regional policymakers will lead a broader discussion of the implications of the economic downturn and its effects on public funds to support early childhood investments.”]

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“Under One Sky”: 18th Annual Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast. Sponsored by the California Conference on Equality and Justice. February 24, 2009. Long Beach Convention Center - Grand Ballroom, Long Beach, California.

For more information:

<http://www.cacej.org/Other%20PDFs/Interfaith%20Breakfast/CCEJ%20Breakfast%20Flyer%202009.pdf>

[“Marian Wright Edelman will be the keynote speaker for the California Conference for Equality and Justice’s 18th Annual Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast.... The theme of the breakfast is ‘Under One Sky’ and it is an opportunity for people of all faiths and backgrounds to come together and celebrate the rich diversity of Southern California and share the vision of a truly inclusive community.” Children’s Defense Fund California. (January 22, 2009.)]

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NACCRRRA 2009 National Policy Symposium. Sponsor: National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. March 10-14, 2009. Washington D.C.

For more information: <http://www.naccrra.org/conferences/symposium/2009/>

[“Join national child care experts and leaders and a network of your colleagues in discovering how, together, we can work towards ‘Getting Child Care on the Right Track.’ Learn about real, workable policy solutions and initiatives that will help us change the current state of child care and create a brighter future for our nation’s children.... NACCRRRA’s Policy Symposium features more than 55 sessions on the latest policy, research, and practice developments in child care and CCR&R. The Symposium offers a forum for policy analysis and discussion, examination of latest research, high-quality training, peer networking, visits to legislators and resources dissemination for about 600 attendees from across the country.”]

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