



Studies in the News for



Children and Families Commission

Contents This Week

Introductory Material

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

[Unequal opportunity in California's schools](#)

[Podcast - Rejecting the stereotype, assume "at-potential"](#)

[Tools of the Mind curriculum](#)

[Five states' journeys to prenatal-to-five systems](#)

[Infant-toddler legislation and initiatives](#)

['Early Developments' - issue on achievement gap](#)

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

[Hispanic families in flux](#)

[Teen birth rate rises](#)

[Working with urban American Indian families](#)

IMPROVED HEALTH

[Prenatal exposure to PCBs](#)

[Summary of sudden infant death syndrome laws](#)

[Cultural/linguistic competence in child health programs](#)

[Use of cough and cold medications in children under 6](#)

[Honey and children's coughs](#)

[Healthy Kids Program - "dramatic gains in well-being"](#)

[Young children not being screened for developmental delays](#)

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

[Preferences for child care by race and ethnicity](#)

STUDIES TO COME

[African American grandparent caregivers](#)

CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Child Development Policy Institute 2008 Budget Workshops](#)

[Steppingstones of Technology Innovation for Children with Disabilities 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/cffc/>.

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 the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0206; cslsirc@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 Unequal Opportunity to Learn in California's Schools: Crafting Standards to Track Quality. Working Paper 07-2. By Andrea Venezia and Julie Maxwell-Jolly. (PACE, Policy Analysis for California Education, University of California, Berkeley) 2007. 19 p.

[“This paper, stemming from a PACE seminar, examines the idea of crafting ‘opportunity to learn (OTL) standards’ - how the state might collect and analyze indicators of school quality that are predictive of student achievement. The idea is not new. Such standards were put forward by Congress over a decade ago. However, questions remain regarding which quality indicators can be feasibly monitored and which are empirically related to achievement gains. Developing, implementing, and monitoring such a system would be challenging. But, as the PACE seminar participants discussed, a well-designed OTL system would provide a tool in helping parents, the public, and policymakers know whether students are receiving the resources they need to succeed.”]

Full text at: <http://pace.berkeley.edu/reports/WP.07-2.pdf>

Rejecting the Stereotype: Project U-STARS Assumes “At-Potential.” By the FPG Child Development Institute. FPG Voices. (The Institute, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) [2007] Podcast.

[“What if on your first day at a new job, you found out that you were an ‘at-risk’ employee? You knew from the start that you were labeled as being more likely to fail than your colleagues. So the Human Resources Department provided you with extra supports in basic skills with the hopes that you might get by. Sounds pretty awful - yet everyday the United States does this to millions of young children - especially those. Before millions of children even set foot in a school they are labeled at-risk and then continually viewed through that very narrow prism. FPG’s Project U-STARS is turning the at-risk stereotype on its head. Rather than assuming children are at-risk, it assumes ‘at-potential.’ It works with kindergarten through third grade teachers to recognize outstanding potential in their students.”]

Podcast at: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/News/podcasts.cfm>

“Preschool Program Improves Cognitive Control.” By Adele Diamond and others. IN: Science, vol. 318 (November 30, 2007) 26 p.

[“Findings from a study appearing in... ‘Science,’ the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), show that the play-based ‘Tools of the Mind’ curriculum taught in regular classrooms with regular teachers can improve cognitive control (executive function) in preschool-age children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The research team, which included University of British Columbia’s Adele Diamond and Sarah Munro and NIEER’s Steve Barnett and Jessica Thomas, evaluated 147 5-year-olds in a poor urban school district. Children were randomly assigned to a program teaching ‘Tools’ or another with a more traditional curriculum. The children receiving ‘Tools’ turned in markedly higher scores on tests requiring them to inhibit tendencies and focus their attention on the task at hand. Executive function skills correlate with later school success and other important outcomes.”]

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

Common Vision, Different Paths: Five States’ Journeys toward Comprehensive Prenatal-to-Five Systems. By Jennifer V. Doctors, Pre-K Now, and others. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC and Pre-K Now, Washington, DC) 2007. 36 p.

[“This report focuses primarily on how states are building comprehensive, coordinated systems for children, prenatal to age five. Five states - California, Illinois, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania - were selected for their diversity of programs and approaches. Through interviews with government officials, advocates, and other early childhood leaders in these states, the shared vision and practical strategies that lead to success in building prenatal-to-five systems were investigated. Although no state has fully realized this vision, the discussions revealed four cornerstones of successful system-building efforts - people, perspective, process, and product - as well as seven recommended practices for advancing a prenatal-to-five system.”]

Full text at: http://www.preknow.org/documents/CommonVision_Dec2007.pdf

State and Community Policy Roundup: Progress on Infant-Toddler Issues across the Country. By Elizabeth DiLauro and others. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC) December 2007. 10 p.

[“Through the state policy updates in ‘The Baby Monitor,’ the Zero to Three Policy Network keeps our members abreast of new and exciting infant-toddler legislation and initiatives happening across the country. Every six months, we provide an up-to-date synopsis of these innovative policy activities, so that you can learn from model policies which support the healthy development of infants, toddlers and their families. This end-of-year state policy roundup features everything from early learning guidelines and quality rating systems to the unionization of home-based child care providers and increases in state funding for infant-toddler services.” The Baby Monitor (December 10, 2007.)]

Full text at:

<http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Dec07PolicyRoundup.pdf?docID=4541>

Early Developments [Entire issue.] By the FPG Child Development Institute. Vol. 11, No. 2. (The Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) Fall 2007. 28 p.

[This issue of “‘Early Developments’ focuses on achievement gap. The initiatives highlighted in this issue of ‘Early Developments’ address a variety of approaches to tackling the achievement gap. At the root of all of them is research. FPG is diligently working to expand the research-base of effective solutions, while using what is already known to design innovative and fresh ways to tackle the gap head on.” FPG eNews (December 2007.)]

Full text at:

http://www.fpg.unc.edu/assets/media/outreach/Early_Developments_Achievement_Gap_Fall2007.pdf

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

The Hispanic Family in Flux. By Roberto Suro, University of Southern California. Center on Children and Families Working Paper in collaboration with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. (The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) November 2007. 18 p.

[“By virtue of its size, growth, and relative youth, the Hispanic population will have a growing impact on all policy matters related to the family. This impact will be large and distinctive. The growth of the Hispanic population has already slowed the decline of the two-parent parent family in the United States as immigration produces a steady flow of young adults with a higher propensity to marry than their native-born peers, both Latino and non-Latino. But, immigration, particularly under current policies, is also producing a disproportionate number of Hispanics who are geographically separated from their spouses. The dynamics shaping the Hispanic family are both complex and fluid. Within the Hispanic population there are notable differences in the prevalence of some key behaviors. Of greatest concern is the finding that births to women who are unmarried are more common among native-born Latinos than foreign born Latinos. Such differences are especially significant for the long term because a large and growing share of the youth population is made up of the native-born children of immigrants. Survey data shows that a powerful process of acculturation is taking place among immigrants and their offspring which produces an erosion of the strong sense of family evident among recent immigrants in favor of attitudes similar to those of non-Latinos in the U.S. population.”]

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2007/11_hispanicfamily_suro/11_hispanicfamily_suro.pdf

Births: Preliminary Data for 2006. National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 56, No. 7 (December 5, 2007) 18 p.

[“The teen birth rate in the United States rose in 2006 for the first time since 1991, and unmarried childbearing also rose significantly, according to preliminary birth statistics... by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)... The report shows that between 2005 and 2006, the birth rate for teenagers 15-19 years rose 3 percent, from 40.5 live births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years in 2005 to 41.9 births per 1,000 in 2006. This follows a 14-year downward trend in which the teen birth rate fell by 34 percent from its all-time peak of 61.8 births per 1,000 in 1991. ‘It’s way too early to know if this is the start of a new trend,’ said Stephanie Ventura, head of the Reproductive Statistics Branch at CDC. ‘But given the long-term progress we’ve witnessed, this change is notable.’ The largest increases were reported for non-Hispanic black teens, whose overall rate rose 5 percent in 2006. The rate rose 2 percent for Hispanic teens, 3 percent for non-Hispanic white teens, and 4 percent for American Indian or Alaska Native teens.... The study also shows unmarried childbearing reached a new record high in 2006. The total number of births to unmarried mothers rose nearly 8 percent to 1,641,700 in 2006. This represents a 20 percent increase from 2002, when the recent upswing in non-marital births began.”]

Full text at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_07.pdf

State-specific tables for 2006: 5 p.

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_07_tables.pdf

Resource Guide: Working with American Indian Families with Child Protection and Substance Abuse Challenges. By Nancy M. Lucero. (Rocky Mountain Quality Improvement Center, Englewood, Colorado) May 2007. 39 p.

[“The Denver Indian Family Resource Center has a 7-year history of helping American Indian families involved in the child welfare system in the Denver area. For more than 3 years, the Center developed and implemented a special project, in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Quality Improvement Center, to provide services for American Indian families involved with the child welfare system and affected by drug and alcohol abuse. Drawing on these experiences, the Denver Indian Family Resource Center produced a resource guide for other practitioners who work with urban American Indian families in the child welfare system. ‘Working with American Indian Families with Child Protection and Substance Abuse Challenges’ is divided into two sections. The first part focuses on providing the worker with relevant historical and contextual information, including information about Tribal affiliation and enrollment. Suggestions for engaging families are also included. The second section offers both system-level approaches and direct practice interventions to support successful outcomes for children and families.” Children’s Bureau Express (December 2007 / January 2008.)]

Full text at:

http://www.americanhumane.org/site/DocServer/DIFRC_Resource_Guide_Indian_Fam.pdf?docID=6001

IMPROVED HEALTH

Prenatal and Infant Exposure to an Environmental Pollutant Damages Brain Architecture and Plasticity: A review of a Recent Study Examining the Subtle, yet Serious Long-Term Effects of Prenatal Exposure to PCBs. By the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. Science Briefs. (The Council, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts) 2007. 3 p.

[“The authors found that PCB exposure does not cause gross changes to the developing brain, nor even impede the ability of the auditory system to hear sounds at different intensities. However, they show clearly that the ability to recognize sounds of different frequencies - an essential skill for making both gross and subtle distinctions between kinds of sounds (like ‘pa’ and ‘ca’) - is impaired. Moreover, they demonstrate that the ability of the developing auditory circuits to change is impaired, consistent with the idea that brain plasticity during sensitive periods of development is disrupted.”]

Science Brief:

http://www.developingchild.net/pubs/sb/pdf/SB_Prenatal_Exposure_Pollutant_PL7.pdf

50 State Summary of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Laws. By the National Conference of State Legislatures. (The Conference, Washington, DC) 2007. Interactive website.

[“Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is ‘the sudden death of an infant under one year of age which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene and review of the clinical history,’ according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). SIDS is the leading cause of post-neonatal mortality in the United States, accounting for approximately one-third of all infant deaths.... Many states have laws related to sudden infant death syndrome. The laws vary significantly in terms of scope and subject. Although the above definition of SIDS is common, many states' definitions vary in terms of the age at which a child may be considered to have died from SIDS.... Many states have SIDS advisory councils, education programs or counseling programs. Many states also require that an expert on SIDS participate in child fatality review committees.”]

50 State Summary: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/sidsleg.htm>

And the Journey Continues: Achieving Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Systems Serving Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Their Families. By T. D. Goode and others. (National Center for Cultural Competence, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, Washington, DC) 2007. 66 p.

[This publication “highlights experiences in infusing cultural and linguistic competence into the policies, structures, and practices of selected state programs. The monograph, developed by the National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC) at Georgetown University with support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, presents stories collected from 23 Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs programs. Also included are key lessons that NCCC faculty, staff, and consultants have learned about providing program guidance, as well as an analysis of the various aspects of linguistic and cultural competence described in each state's story. A list of references and state and territorial contacts is included.” MCH Alert (December 7, 2007.)]

Full text at:

http://www.gucchdgeorgetown.net/NCCC/journey/nccc_journey.pdf

“Over the Counter but No Longer Under the Radar - Pediatric Cough and Cold Medications.” By Joshua Sharfstein and others. IN: New England Journal of Medicine, vol. 357, no. 23 (December 6, 2007) pp. 2321-2324.

[“Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Marisa North, and Dr. Janet Serwint write that, in October, an FDA advisory committee voted in favor of immediate action against the use of cough and cold medications in children under 6. After the meeting, the major manufacturers of these

products announced that they would continue to market these preparations for children between 2 and 5 years of age.”]

Full text at: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/357/23/2321.pdf>

“Effect of Honey, Dextromethorphan, and No Treatment on Nocturnal Cough and Sleep Quality for Coughing Children and Their Parents.” By Ian M. Paul and others. IN: Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, vol. 161, no. 12 (December 2007) pp. 1140-1146.

[“There may be hope for parents looking for alternatives to drug-laden cough syrup to calm their children's coughs - and help might be as close as that golden nectar in the kitchen. Honey can soothe throats and calm coughs, according to a new study. The study... found that children who received a small dose of buckwheat honey before bedtime slept better and coughed less than those who received either a common over-the-counter cough suppressant (dextromethorphan) or nothing at all. ‘This is the first time honey has been actually proven as a treatment,’ says lead study author Dr. Ian Paul, a researcher at Penn State College of Medicine. He adds that honey has been recommended for ages by grandparents in certain cultures. The researchers enrolled 105 children, between ages 2 and 18, in their randomized, partially double-blind study.... ‘Darker honeys have more antioxidants than lighter honeys, and we wanted the best chance to see improvements,’ he says, noting that lighter honeys would probably also benefit kids. ‘At least locally [buckwheat honey] is available. I can get it here at the local supermarket.’” ABC News (December 3, 2007.)]

Full text at: <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/161/12/1140>

Three Independent Evaluations of Healthy Kids Programs Find Dramatic Gains in Well-Being of Children and Families. By Christopher Trenholm, Mathematica, and others. In Brief. No. 1. (Mathematica, Princeton, New Jersey, the University of California, San Francisco, and the Urban Institute, Washington, DC) November 15, 2007. 4 p.

[“This brief presents highlights from rigorous, independent evaluations of the Healthy Kids programs in three California counties, Los Angeles, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. The three Healthy Kids programs provide children with comprehensive health insurance coverage. Children are eligible for Healthy Kids if they are ineligible for California's two major state insurance programs, Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, and live in families with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) in Los Angeles and Santa Clara counties, and 400 percent of the FPL in San Mateo County. This brief describes some of the many positive impacts that Healthy Kids programs have had on children, including improvements in their access to and use of medical services and reductions in their unmet need for care.” The Urban Institute (November 19, 2007.)]

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411572_healthy_kids.pdf

Developmental Screening in Primary Care: The Effectiveness of Current Practice and Recommendations for Improvement. By Laura Sices. (Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York) December 2007. 34 p.

[“In the new Commonwealth Fund publication... Laura Sices, M.D., of the Boston University School of Medicine reports there is significant under-detection of developmental delays in early childhood. In examining the effectiveness of efforts undertaken by primary care providers to detect developmental delays in early childhood, Sices determined that early intervention programs aimed at addressing these concerns serve only 2.3 percent of children under age 3 - despite the presence of delays in at least 10 percent of children. And although American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines support the use of validated developmental screening tools, these instruments are not widely used in pediatric practice. The author says that it will be necessary to address financial, educational, and other barriers to physicians' use of developmental screening tools. In addition, residents in pediatrics and family medicine need to be trained to use these tools as part of routine pediatric care.” The Commonwealth Fund (December 12, 2007.)]

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/1082_Sices_developmental_screening_primary_care.pdf?section=4039

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Racial and Ethnic Differences in Welfare Leavers' Child Care Preferences: A Factorial Survey Analysis. By Anne Shlay and others. Prepared for the William Penn Foundation and the Claneil Foundation by the Family and Children's Policy Collaborative. (Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) 2007. 84 p.

[“This study focuses on revealed preferences for child care by race and ethnicity. Employing the factorial survey technique, this research examines what a recent sample of welfare leavers want most from different child care settings.... This research compares child care preference structures across Hispanic, White and African American samples. It also assesses whether parents' child care preferences correspond with contemporary public policy initiatives used to advertise and inform parents of the quality of particular child care settings.”]

Full text at: <http://astro.temple.edu/~ashlay/factorialrace.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.]

“African American Grandparent Caregivers: Stresses and Implications for Counselors.” By Karia Kelch-Oliver. IN: The Family Journal, vol. 16, no. 1 (2008) pp. 43-50.

[“Many grandparents today have the responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. Although caregiving grandparents come from all racial groups and social classes, single African American grandparents from urban, low-income households are represented at a higher rate than any other racial or ethnic group. As the number of grandparent-headed households continues to increase in society, so do their stressors, and the need to understand these families' experiences becomes more significant. The purpose of this article is to explore the experiences and stresses affecting African American grandparents who are the primary caregivers of their grandchildren. First, a general description of grandparent-headed families (GHF) is presented, followed by a brief history and discussion of the factors leading to GHF. Current research in the kinship care literature on GHF is reviewed. In conclusion, the author discusses research and clinical implications for family counselors working with these families.” NOTE: African American Grandparent Caregivers... will be available for loan.]

CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Child Development Policy Institute 2008 Budget Workshops. Presented by CDPI, On the Capitol Doorstep and the Children’s Defense Fund of California. January 24, 2008, Sacramento. January 29, 2008, Oakland. January 31, 2008, Los Angeles. February 1, 2008, San Diego.

[“In its continuing effort to provide the early care and education field with the most up-to-date and relevant information, CDPI holds three major budget and/or policy events each year. The budget workshops allow professionals to learn the mechanics in the state budget process and get informed about the January version of the Governor’s fiscal year budget. Four workshops are held throughout the state....”]

For more information and to register:

<https://www.cdpi.net/cs/cdpi/print/htdocs/events.htm#budget>

Steppingstones of Technology Innovation for Children with Disabilities Grants. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Washington, DC. Application deadline: January 9, 2008.

[“Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008.... The purpose of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program

is to: (1) Improve results for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology, (2) support educational media services activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom setting to children with disabilities, and (3) provide support for captioning and video description that are appropriate for use in the classroom setting.”]

For more information:

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2007-4/121007d.html>