



## **News and Research Update Index**

(Scroll down to find short descriptions of articles and web links)

### **Early Childhood**

1. **Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children**
2. **Basic Facts about Low-Income Children**
3. **The Cost of Doing Nothing**

### **Early Education**

4. **Analysis of 123 Studies Finds Positive Effects for Children Attending Pre-K**
5. **Is full-day preschool a good start, or too much, too soon, for kids?**
6. **Teaching Coaches for Pre-K Programs Don't Always Improve Quality**
7. **Connecting Schools and Family Child Care Homes**
8. **Tribes Use Camps to Speak on Preserving Language**

### **Early Learning**

9. **“Who’s the Boss?” Young Children’s Power and Influence in an Early Childhood Classroom**
10. **The Importance of Early Math**

### **Health**

11. **America's Health Starts With Healthy Children**
12. **“Family Services Joins Health Care Program”**
13. **Prevention of Rickets and Vitamin D Deficiency: New Guidelines for Vitamin D Intake**
14. **“Time to Decaffeinate Your Kids?”**

### **Media**

15. **“Lots of TV and Web Harms Kids’ Health”**
16. **Baby Scam: Marketing to Babies and Toddlers**
17. **Center on Media and Child Health Research Database**

### **Social-Emotional and Mental Health**

18. **“The Psychologist in the Baby”**
19. **Verbal Aggression May Affect Children’s Behavior and Self-Esteem**
20. **Old-Fashioned Play Builds Serious Skills**
21. **Unclaimed Children Revisited: The Status of Children’s Mental Health Policy in the United States**

### **Family Strengthening/Child Abuse and Neglect**

22. **Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education**
23. **Early Interventions to Prevent Abuse and Prepare for School Success**
24. **Likely Cause of Postpartum Blues and Depression Identified**

### **Advocacy and Policy**

25. **“Obama Pledge Stirs Hope in Early Education”**
26. **Children’s Health Insurance Reauthorization Side-by-Side**
27. **Fostering Connections To Success and Increasing Adoptions Act**

### **Early Childhood**

1. **Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children** This new report from the Department of Justice indicates that a majority of prisoners are parents of children under 18: 52% of state prisoners and 63% of federal prisoners have minor children. These children represent about 2.3% of all

children under the age of 18 in the U.S. Read a summary of the report at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/press/pptmcp.htm>.

- 2. Basic Facts about Low-Income Children** These two fact sheets from the National Center for Children in Poverty provide basic statistics for young children living in poverty. Did you know that 43% of infants and toddlers in the United States live in low-income families? The fact sheet for infants and toddlers ages 0-3 can be found at [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_849.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_849.html) and the sheet for preschoolers ages 0-6 can be found at [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_847.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_847.html)
- 3. The Cost of Doing Nothing** This report from First Focus reports that an estimated 3 million more children will be pushed into poverty as a result of the recession, costing our economy \$35 billion per year over their lifetimes, or a total cost of \$1.7 trillion. Read a summary or download the full report at <http://www.firstfocus.net/pages/3533/>.

## **Early Education**

- 4. Analysis of 123 Studies Finds Positive Effects for Children Attending Pre-K** Children who attended preschool before entering kindergarten made the most progress in cognitive development, according to an analysis of 123 studies by Rutgers University researchers. The children also made gains in social development and school progress. Teacher-directed instruction and small-group instruction were found to be the most important factors in the children's progress, and the positive effects lasted well past preschool. Read a summary of the article at: <http://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentID=15440>.
- 5. Is full-day preschool a good start, or too much, too soon, for kids?** New Jersey is instituting free preschool for all low-income three- and four-year olds. Read the arguments for and against full-day preschool at: [http://www.northjersey.com/education/educationnews/Is\\_full-day\\_preschool\\_a\\_good\\_start\\_or\\_too\\_much\\_too\\_soon\\_for\\_kids.html](http://www.northjersey.com/education/educationnews/Is_full-day_preschool_a_good_start_or_too_much_too_soon_for_kids.html)
- 6. Teaching Coaches for Pre-K Programs Don't Always Improve Quality** A study from the National Institute of Early Education Research found that teaching coaches did not improve the quality of mediocre child care programs. The article discusses the underlying reasons for the lack of improvement and recommendations for making coaching successful. Read more in the Fall 2008 issue of "Early Childhood Research and Practice": <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v10n2/ackerman.html>
- 7. Connecting Schools and Family Child Care Homes** This brief from the School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at Yale University discusses the benefits and challenges of family child care, and ways for schools to reach out and support these facilities. Read more at: [http://www.yale.edu/21c/documents/2008\\_Fall\\_IssueBrief\\_FCC.pdf](http://www.yale.edu/21c/documents/2008_Fall_IssueBrief_FCC.pdf)
- 8. Tribes Use Camps to Speak on Preserving Language** "Because language frames the way a person looks upon the world..., its demise also threatens a tribe's values, traditions and religion... That reality is magnified by the dominance of pop culture among kids." This article from EdWeek explains why tribal languages are dying and what some tribes are doing about it: [http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/08/02/140157wsttriballanguagepreservation\\_ap.html?r=779419776](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/08/02/140157wsttriballanguagepreservation_ap.html?r=779419776) (You may need to register to read the article.)

## **Early Learning**

- 9. "Who's the Boss?" Young Children's Power and Influence in an Early Childhood Classroom** This study looks in depth at the issue of power dynamics in the early childhood classroom and the resulting implications for teachers. The actual findings of the study are presented through the use of case studies. Find the study in "Early Childhood Research and Practice" at: <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v10n1/lee.html>
- 10. The Importance of Early Math** According to the Society for Research in Child Development, early math ability is a good predictor of later success in school, even better than early reading abilities. However, early math instruction may either be lacking or of poor quality. Read two briefs: "Improving Mathematics Education May Enhance Children's Academic Success" at [http://srcd.org/documents/policy/sprbrief\\_early\\_childhood\\_math.pdf](http://srcd.org/documents/policy/sprbrief_early_childhood_math.pdf) and "Mathematics Education for Young Children: What it is and How to Promote it" at [http://srcd.org/documents/publications/spr/22-1\\_early\\_childhood\\_math.pdf](http://srcd.org/documents/publications/spr/22-1_early_childhood_math.pdf).

## Health

11. **America's Health Starts With Healthy Children** This report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation looks at children's health and how it is affected by socioeconomic background. It includes a snapshot of every state, including Montana. Read the report at: <http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=35010&c=EMC-CA144>
12. **"Family Services Joins Health Care Program"** Head Start families in WA who participated in training about when to seek medical care for their children showed an increase in school and work attendance and a decrease in emergency room visits. Read the article in the "Herald" online newspaper: <http://www.columbiabasinherald.com/articles/2008/10/23/news/nw2.10.23.08.txt>
13. **Prevention of Rickets and Vitamin D Deficiency: New Guidelines for Vitamin D Intake** The American Academy of Pediatrics has doubled the recommendation for children's Vitamin D intake. Read about the new guidelines at: <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;111/4/908>
14. **"Time to Decaffeinate Your Kids?"** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has no guidelines for caffeine intake, but Canada does. Find them at <http://blog.newsweek.com/blogs/tipsheet/archive/2008/08/09/time-to-decaffeinate-your-kids.aspx>

## Media

15. **"Lots of TV and Web Harms Kids' Health"** An analysis of 173 studies on media and its effects on children found a strong correlation between amount of media use and childhood obesity, tobacco use, and earlier sexual activity. Media use was also associated with drug and alcohol use and poorer school performance. Interestingly, the amount of media consumed was more important than the content. Read more about the findings at Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE4B133N20081202>
16. **Baby Scam: Marketing to Babies and Toddlers** This printable fact sheet from The Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood has some shocking statistics; for example, 40% of infants are regularly watching screen media by the age of three months, and 19% of babies one year old and younger have televisions in their bedrooms. Find this fact sheet at: <http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org/factsheets/babies.pdf>. The Campaign has a series of these fact sheets on a variety of topics, including the Commercialization of Toys and Play, Sexualizing Childhood, Materialism and Family Stress, Marketing Media Violence, Food Marketing and Childhood Obesity, and several more. Find them at: <http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org/factsheets/facts.htm>.
17. **Center on Media and Child Health Research Database** Search for studies and articles related to media and children's health on this website: <http://www.cmch.tv/research/searchCitations.asp>

## Social-Emotional and Mental Health

18. **"The Psychologist in the Baby"** Zero to Three is offering a free article from its May 2008 Journal that explains research indicating that babies and toddlers may not be as egocentric as we have thought. Read the article at [http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/28-5\\_Thompson.pdf?docID=6461](http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/28-5_Thompson.pdf?docID=6461).
19. **Verbal Aggression May Affect Children's Behavior and Self-Esteem** This study from Purdue University found that mothers with a tendency to be verbally aggressive tried to control and direct their children during playtime. As a result, the children were less cooperative and their self-esteem was affected. Read more at: <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/x/2008b/080804WilsonMothers.html>
20. **Old-Fashioned Play Builds Serious Skills** Imaginative play helps children develop executive function and the ability to self-regulate. Read more in this article from NPR: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=19212514> You can also listen to the broadcast.
21. **Unclaimed Children Revisited: The Status of Children's Mental Health Policy in the United States** The National Center for Children in Poverty revisits the original "Unclaimed Children" report, 25 years later. They find that the "majority of states are taking tangible steps to

improve their mental health delivery systems for children and youth” although the “changes, while promising, are often severely limited in scope and shallow in depth due to lack of concerted strategic plans.” Read the entire report at: [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_853.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_853.html).

## **Family Strengthening/Child Abuse and Neglect**

- 22. Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education** According to the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the following protective factors are associated with the prevention of child abuse and neglect: parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and social and emotional competence of children. Quality early care and education programs can utilize various strategies to build these protective factors. Read more at: <http://www.cssp.org/uploadFiles/horton.pdf>
- 23. Early Interventions to Prevent Abuse and Prepare for School Success** This Thursday’s Child audio recording from Chapin Hall discusses home visitation and other prevention models, as well as strategies for enacting such programs and policies. Examples from Illinois and Washington are used. Listen to it at: <http://www.about.chapinhall.org/conferences/urban/jun2008/presentations.html>
- 24. Likely Cause of Postpartum Blues and Depression Identified** Postpartum blues can interfere with mothers bonding with their babies. Read this article from the Medical College of Georgia about the neurotransmitter serotonin and the biochemical basis of postpartum blues: <https://my.mcg.edu/portal/page/portal/News/archive/2008/Likely%20cause%20of%20postpartum%20blues%20and%20depression%20identified>.

## **Advocacy and Policy**

- 25. “Obama Pledge Stirs Hope in Early Education”** This New York Times article explains Obama’s education platform, which includes making poor children a priority and providing care to infants and toddlers. Federal monies would also be available to states developing universal early education programs. Read the article at: [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/17/us/politics/17early.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/17/us/politics/17early.html?_r=2&hp)
- 26. Children’s Health Insurance Reauthorization Side-by-Side** This document from First Focus, National Association of Community Health Centers, and Children’s Health Fund compares proposals in Congress for the reauthorization of SCHIP. Read it at: [http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/SCHIP\\_SidebySide.pdf](http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/SCHIP_SidebySide.pdf)
- 27. Fostering Connections To Success and Increasing Adoptions Act** This Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Bush. The Children’s Defense Fund and the Center for Law and Social Policy provides a summary of the bill and how it will help foster children: [http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/9\\_16\\_08\\_FCSAIAAct\\_1-\\_pager\\_FINAL\\_with\\_new\\_logo.pdf?docID=8882](http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/9_16_08_FCSAIAAct_1-_pager_FINAL_with_new_logo.pdf?docID=8882)