

# What's New with Kids – December 2004

## NEVADA KIDS COUNT NEWSLETTER

### Site of the Month

Thanks to Louise Helton for a tip about a keynote speaker at a conference in Las Vegas and to Dr. Bob McCord for arranging for Keith and me to attend the conference to hear the speaker. Dr. Harold L. Hodgkinson, a renown demographer, spoke on leaving too many children behind at the Nevada Association of School Administrators Conference at the Orleans Hotel on November 8, 2004.

Much of Dr. Hodgkinson's presentation was taken from his article, "Leaving Too Many Children Behind," which can be accessed online at: <<http://www.iel.org/pubs/manychildren.pdf>>. Dr. Hodgkinson presented demographic data on children and discussed risk factors for young children. Not surprisingly, of all the risk factors, he claims that "poverty magnifies all other risk factors."

His data suggest that the U.S. has not provided and is not prepared to provide our youngest children with the resources they require to succeed. In his article, Dr. Hodgkinson recommends the following action steps:

1. "Fully fund Head Start
2. Provide quality, universal child care
3. Provide federal incentives to promote high-quality programs like Schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
4. Provide all-day kindergarten
5. Pay a competitive wage to child care and daycare workers
6. Convene a national Governor's summit on this issue
7. Ensure health care and resources for *all* children
8. Promote parent education
9. Implement the recommendations in *Not by Chance*"

All in all, this thoughtful presentation identified items for moving beyond slogans to an agenda for the future.

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