

Nevada KIDS COUNT Newsletter

November 2004

Journal of the Month

“Children of Immigrant Families” is the title of the current issue of the journal, *The Future of Children* (Summer 2004, Vol. 14, No. 2). This issue features the following eight articles on children and families with a focus on immigrant children: (1) “Children of Immigrant Families: Analysis and Recommendations,” (2) “Demographic Change and the Life Circumstances of Immigrant Families,” (3) “Economic and Labor Market Trends,” (4) “Leveling the Playing Field: Supporting Immigrant Children from Birth to Eight,” (5) “The Multiple Contexts of Middle Childhood,” (6) “Preparing Diverse Adolescents for the Transition to Adulthood,” (7) “Growing Up American,” and (8) “Four Commentaries: Looking to the Future.”

The article that I chose to review for this newsletter is “Leveling the Playing Field: Supporting Immigrant Children from Birth to Eight,” which discusses the needs of immigrant children. The author, Ruby Takanishi, discusses the importance of the age span, birth to eight, to the future of children; the participation of immigrant children in health and education programs and the effect of these programs on child well-being; and recommendations for ensuring equal access to these programs for immigrant children.

Policies that could help meet the needs of all children are summarized by Takanishi. These include: (1) instituting paid family leave, (2) providing early education for all children, (3) requiring full-day kindergarten, (4) offering dual-language programs for all children, (5) strengthening neighborhood support for out-of-school time, and (6) providing universal access to health-care services. Takanishi recommends programs/activities that could help meet the needs of immigrant children, such as: (1) establishing two-generational early education and family literacy programs, (2) improving teacher preparation to work with diverse newcomer children, (3) encouraging parental engagement in schools, and (4) improving outreach and services to preschoolers with disabilities in immigrant families.

The Future of Children can be accessed online at: <<http://www.futureofchildren.org>>.