

What's New with Kids – January 2005

NEVADA KIDS COUNT NEWSLETTER

Site of the Month

A report which presents findings on the educational experiences of youth in out-of-home care in Illinois was released last month by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.

The findings show a bleak outlook for children based on the youth's educational experiences, some of which are listed below.

- Almost half of the students in grades three through eight in out-of-home care scored in the bottom quartile in reading.
- Students in out-of-home care trailed other students in the Chicago public schools in learning by about half a year.
- Students in out-of-home care were more likely to drop out of school than other Chicago public-school students.
- Students in out-of-home care were more likely to have changed schools than other students.
- Students in out-of-home care were more likely to have been in special education (three and one-half times more than Chicago public-school students).
- Students in out-of-home care in special education were more likely to have been classified as disabled or having an emotional or behavioral disorder than other students.

The report also presents data on workers' caseloads, such as the number of students per worker, communications problems among the school, caseworker, or foster parents, etc.

Although the report is long, 116 pages, it is perhaps the most extensive study on educational experiences of children in out-of-home care, and is worth taking a look at. The report is available online at: <http://www.chapinhall.org/home_new.asp>.

Additional resources related to children in foster care were compiled by Jan Richter, Advocacy Director, Connect for Kids. Her list follows.

Improving Outcomes for Older Youth

This resource from the National Resource Center for Youth Development, published in conjunction with American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, has extensive information on the laws that impact youth in education and also includes checklists on education for use by advocates.

<http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/publications.htm>

Educating Youth In Care: The First Year of Education and Training Vouchers

The National Resource Center for Youth Development has also just published a best practices monograph on the first year of Education and Training Vouchers from around the country.
<http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/publications/monographs/etv.pdf>

Learning Curves Education Advocacy for Children in Foster Care

This book by Kathleen M. McNaught, J.D. is a culmination of an article series that appeared in the *Child Law Practice*. The book's six chapters address general education advocacy strategies, education rights and key federal laws, special education process, education needs of young children, how school discipline policies impact children in foster care, and creative approaches to address education barriers for children in foster care. The book also includes at-a-glance practice tips, commonly used psychological tests, education advocacy resources, and excerpts from key federal laws and regulations.

To order a copy, call the ABA Service Center at 800.285.2221
ISBN: PC 5490441
PRICE: \$15.95

A Roadmap for Learning: *Improving Educational Outcomes in Foster Care* *A Framework for Education Practice*

To request a copy from Casey Family Programs, contact: Debbie Staub, Manager-Education,
Casey Family Programs: dstaub@casey.org

Foster Children and Education

This Vera Institute of Justice publication looks at the challenges, adult roles, re-enrollment and other areas to make education a positive experience for foster children.
http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/241_452.pdf

The Judicial Education Checklist and Technical Assistance Bulletin will be available in January 2005 through the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Rennae Daneshvary
Nevada KIDS COUNT