
Listed and annotated are 106 references focusing on social policy in relationship to services for children. All citations date from 1971 to 1982 and have been organized into eight categories: conceptual issues, developmental issues, historical context, legal issues, policy issues, political advocacy, role of government, and role of the family. The references primarily address children's needs, children's rights, and social policy from a generic viewpoint. Generally, references concerning specific services to children have not been included, while articles relating specific services to the eight categories listed above have been incorporated. In the main, then, references reflect issues related to the development of a conceptual framework for meeting children's needs and addressing their rights. (Author/RH)
Providing for Children's Needs and Rights
An Annotated Bibliography

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Submitted by:
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December, 1982
Listed and annotated below are 106 references which discuss services
for children in relation to social policy. All citations date from 1971
to the present and have been organized into eight categories: Conceptual
Issues, Developmental Issues, Historical Context, Legal Issues, Policy
Issues, Political Advocacy, Role of Government and Role of the Family.
These references primarily address children's needs, their rights and
social policy from a generic viewpoint. Generally, specific services to
children and their families such as special education, health care, etc.
have not been examined. However, when articles dealing with specific services
have also dealt with any of the eight categories listed above, they have
been included. These references reflect issues related to the development of
a conceptual framework for meeting children's needs and addressing their
rights.

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES. THE REFERENCES LISTED IN THIS CATEGORY DESCRIBE,
DISCUSS AND DEBATE THE CONCERNS AND CONCEPTS THAT FORM THE FRAMEWORK FOR
CONCEPTUALIZING CHILDREN'S NEEDS AND RIGHTS.

Baumrind, D. Reciprocal Rights and Responsibilities in
Parent-Child Relations. Journal of Social Issues,
1978, 34, 179-196.

Baumrind examines the position taken by child liberators re: children's
rights and contends that the dependent status of children makes
emancipation impossible. Her major argument contends that parent-child
relationships are not reciprocal because of children's dependent status.

This special issue is divided into five sections: social policy and young children; public policy and the young child; health and health policies for young children; early childhood educational policies and practices; and current family phenomena. The first section contains articles which review the historical predeedents for current issues; the second section examines state policies toward young children; early childhood educational policies focus on intervention programs and the last section examines policy issues as possibilities for family support systems.

de Lone, R.H. for the Carnegie Council on Children:

de Lone presents the argument that inequality remains a major stumbling block to achievement of American dreams of equal opportunities and that attempts at reform are limited, in part, by the conflicts between a capitalistic economic system and American ideals. de Lone argues his case via an historical analysis of these issues. He concludes with arguments for major changes in social policy.

Edelman argues that society needs to provide families a system of supports enabling them to more successfully fulfill their childrearing responsibilities. She counterattacks the myths currently used against the establishment of social policies for children and their families and offers specific recommendations towards the goal of a comprehensive social policy for children and their families.


This document supports the family rather than the child as the focus of services for children. Services are portrayed as part of a support structure that families put together to help them fulfill their childrearing responsibilities. Based upon this perspective, implications for state policies for children and their families are discussed.

This publication documents participants' brainstorming during two days of meetings. The major issue of discussion is whether the family should be held responsible for adapting to society or whether society should attempt to adapt for families. The importance of corporations as a potential support system is emphasized.


Although discussion focuses on the issue of child care, the presentation has implications for all services which attempt to meet the needs of children. The authors argue that current debate over how children should be cared for when parents work outside the home ignores the social changes that have occurred during this century. Based upon their international research and analysis of children's services, Kamerman and Kahn contend that major social changes demand a different perspective.


This report summarizes the author's telephone survey of 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The survey identifies the concerns
of the states regarding services for children and their families and identifies states' top 14 priorities.


Lott examines some of the relationships among attitudes toward children and parents and feminist ideas associated with the women's liberation movement. She relates the traditional concepts of women's roles and childrearing to issues of social responsibility. Her conclusions suggest that society may assume more responsibility for supporting families when childrearing transcends its current narrow conception as a relationship between women and children.


Peters considers the relationship between social policy and social science research. He concludes that economic, social and political factors are the principal initiators of broad program efforts. Social science research functions to clarify societal needs and to refine social programs.
The Rights of Children, Reprint Series No. 9.

This collection of readings is organized under the headings of Conceptions of Children's Rights, Advocacy for Children, and Social Policy for Children. The issues discussed express concern for the child's viewpoint. The section on social policy considers issues such as foster care, correctional reform and child abuse.


This essay examines American family values and attempts to predict the ways in which they will affect and, in turn, be influenced by public policy. Schorr's examination pinpoints three American traditions: American goals as individualistic; dedication to private enterprise and government; and the nature of the political process in the United States. These traditions are examined as hinderances to the development of family policies.


Solnit distinguishes between the parents' roles as nuturer and
advocate for their children's best interests. He contends that parents' should be protected in their autonomy to perform these two functions.

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This book is a collection of ten papers, a result of a conference on Children's Rights and Child Advocacy held at Teachers College at Columbia University in 1977. The authors are from the field of law, government, psychology, education and philosophy. Each examines the issues of children's rights from their different perspectives.

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**DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES.** SOCIAL POLICIES FOR CHILDREN ARE OFTEN CREATED BASED UPON OUR PERCEPTIONS OF THE UNIQUE, DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN. THESE REFERENCES DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS AND THEIR POTENTIAL RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT.


Brim argues the necessity of examining economic, cultural, political and legal values in child development and to relate these issues to research and services in child care.
Bronfenbrenner argues the need of developmental research to adopt an ecological framework if it is to have any meaningful relevancy for the development of public policy.

Carew contends that understandings of child development must not assume that definitions of good caregiving in one context also define it in other contexts. Her perspective stresses the impact of multiple contexts on a child's development.


These four articles question the concept of infancy as a critical period of development and the predictability of early experiences for later development. Since the acceptance of these concepts has been a basis for intervention programs and efforts to keep mothers at home with their young children, re-examination of this concept should have implications for social policy.


Roberts asks how much of our planning and thinking about children considers the direct interests and needs of children. The conflicts between children's issues and economic, social and political ends are discussed.

Weiss reviews the cultural notion of the exclusive linkage between mother and child and how the ideal of the dyad has affected social questions concerning women and children. Government policy is committed to the prevailing view of the mother-child dyad rather than focusing on the social forces affecting the child-rearing process.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT.** THIS SECTION INCLUDES ARTICLES THAT EXAMINE CHANGES OVER TIME IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDREN'S NEEDS. A MAJOR INSIGHT FROM THESE READINGS IS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN OUR PAST EMPHASIS UPON CHILD PROTECTION AND OUR CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO UNRAVEL THE ISSUES SURROUNDING CHILDREN'S CIVIL RIGHTS.


Beck reviews White House Conferences on Children from 1909 to 1970. Through this review, she examines the changing conceptions of childhood and the relationship of these perspectives and conference recommendations to the social, economic and political issues at conference times.


The author compares the content of the children's charter of 1930 to children's current status in the United States in order to historically
examine the public's attitudes toward policies for children.


Dunlop presents six on-going rationales that underlie the development of child care and parent education: response to social trends, enhancing child development, enhancing parental competence, providing support to families, supporting equal opportunity for women and community development. Each of these rationales is presented as facilitating the accomplishment of social goals through change and reform.


Freidan argues for the necessity of moving to a second stage of human values. The women's movement needs to transcend the masculine definition of success and achievement as women strive to combine careers and families. Although not directly related to the issues of children's needs and rights, Freidan's discussion argues for a re-examination of our traditional values. She presents the need for communities, businesses and governments to support parents in their efforts to rear their families in ways that do not negate their possibilities for professional growth.

This publication is based upon a 1979 keynote address at the annual NAEYC conference. Howard describes the historical evolution of family forms and functions from the 16th and 17th centuries to the present. Of importance to the issues of children's needs and social policy is the relativity of family forms to social, economic and political contingencies.


Lazerson discusses early childhood programs with an emphasis upon intervention programs. He contends that early childhood education has been developed as a means of social reform.


Margolin examines the current movement for children's rights in the United States in terms of the history of child-saving and of the recent events in the human rights arena. He examines the conflicts inherent
in the salvation and liberation of children.


Ross presents an historical review of the evolution of society's responses to children's needs for protection and for civil and political liberties.


Steiner discusses the origin, organization and success of children's policies. His analysis points out some of the reasons children's issues have not successfully resulted in an integrated social policy for children and their families. In his concluding chapter, Steiner makes specific recommendations to initiate reform.


Takanishi presents a history of child advocacy efforts. Past efforts at child advocacy are described as the roots of current efforts.
on behalf of children by demonstrating how consequences of past successes have become the content for current advocacy.


Takanishi reviews the federal government's involvement in early childhood programs. Three general trends are revealed: federal involvement is crisis-oriented; it is temporary and it is focused upon a narrow segment of the population. Her conclusions discuss the implications of these findings for future policymaking on behalf of children.

LEGAL ISSUES. THE LEGAL SYSTEM REPRESENTS A MAJOR CONTEXT AFFECTING CHILDREN'S ISSUES. THESE REFERENCES PRESENT THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAW'S RELATIONSHIP TO CHILDREN AND EXAMINES THE LAW AS A SYSTEM OF RESTRAINTS AND POSSIBILITIES IN SERVING CHILDREN.


This article compares the distinctions between decisions made on behalf of children by judges and by family members. Burt contends that
although the state's intervention into family life rests upon the legal concept of the child's best interests, it reflects underlying mistrust of parental decisions, ignores the inadequacies of the state as a protector of children and confuses the role of judge and parent.

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In a technical article that frequently relies upon legal precedents to support its argument, Burt documents the government's claims to power and describes these claims as government's increasing capacity to intrude upon individual privacy. Burt then argues that government protection and 'benevolence' is, in reality, justification for forcing services upon participants.

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This chapter is derived from Freud's participation in the writing of *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child* (see below). Freud argues against the perception of children as incomplete beings prior to adulthood and contends that legal law is based upon adult reasoning rather than children's developmental needs. She concludes that children need to be represented independently of adults.
Gelman, S.R. Who Should Administer Social Services? 

Gelman examines the relationship between agencies that administer social services and the judicial system. The need to understand the dynamics of the judicial process is based upon the role of the courts in seeing that legislative intent is realized and the courts as a social system that support and/or limit the discretionary authority of agencies and practitioners.


Glazer investigates the legal system as a mediating variable between children and their parents and between families and social institutions. His discussion examines effects of the intervention of a legal system that concerns itself with universal claims which are often in conflict with the idiosyncratic needs of individual families and their children.


This chapter reflects Goldstein's efforts in writing Beyond the Best Interests of the Child (see below). Using a case study approach, Goldstein
compares the actual results of a New York case involving a young child in foster care with what Goldstein contends is a less detrimental alternative because it respects the developmental needs of the young child over the legal rights of the biological parents.


This book examines the conditions that justify overcoming the presumption in law that parents are free to determine what is best for their own children. The authors emphasize minimal state intervention but simultaneously argue for and attempt to justify when state intrusion into family life is the least detrimental alternative.


Written prior to Before the Best Interests of the Child, these authors now apply psychoanalytic theory to develop guidelines for child placement—-for children already caught up in the legal system—to be utilized for evaluating and revising current legal parameters. "...focuses on the development of guidelines to decision-making in law concerned with the selection and manipulation of a child's external environment as a means of improving and nourishing his internal environment" (p7).

Knitzer examines legal actions regarding children's rights within the family with regard to social institutions. The author also discusses the issues and dilemmas raised by these legal actions.


Lowry contends that children's helplessness reflects their lack of independent legal status. Utilizing examples from case studies, the author portrays the child as a potential victim of both clumsy and over-intrusive state agencies and insensitive families.


The author contends that the needs/interests of parents are not always congruent with those of their children. Milton argues for the need to find out what children's perceptions are of their needs and rights. A review of some of the research in this area is then provided. Although most of the
discussion and research focuses upon older children, children's perceptions and concerns about their rights should also be a concept of importance in early childhood.


Rodham has written an extensive review of The Children's Cause and uses her review as a forum for identifying issues of concern to the legal profession regarding policies for children and their families.


The author examines the changing status of children under the law. After describing children's current legal status as dependent upon adult representatives, family wishes and family status, Rodham argues for the need for independent legal status for children and presents the necessary prerequisites for children's needs and interests to be recognized as rights under the law.

This article examines the evolution of the law to create opportunities for children's growth. The author's discussion focuses upon the social and political issues resulting in child-protection laws and the issues/dilemmas resulting from these legal precedents.


The author argues for the rights of families to determine what is best for their children. In the context of the issue of child abuse, Uviller expresses concern that the distortion of the issue will encourage inappropriate state intervention. The rights of parents are documented via a summary of legal precedents. She urges greater interest and concern for the welfare of families and not just children to help maintain "family integrity and parental autonomy" (p.154).

POLICY ISSUES. THE REFERENCES IN THIS SECTION EXAMINE THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL POLICIES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES. THESE DISCUSSIONS DOCUMENT THE COMPLEXITY OF SOCIAL POLICY AND HIGHLIGHT THE ECONOMIC,
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXTS THAT MUST BE RECOGNIZED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.


Bronfenbrenner's review of early intervention programs facilitated the inclusion of parent involvement in early education programs. His findings indicated that early education programs which included a parent involvement component resulted in increased gains on intelligence tests and longer longevity of these results. His conclusions specifically relate the implications of his findings to the development of social policy.


In this pamphlet available from the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), this leading public advocate for children outlines its primary objectives for the 96th Congress.


The author describes the Swedish approach to child care. Discussion focuses on the distinction between Sweden's assumption of joint responsi-
ability with families for the care of young children with the individualistic approach of the United States.


This article describes the differences in family policies in Western Europe and the United States. It discusses family policy as it currently exists in the United States and presents the political contexts which have influenced and continue to influence policy-development.


This article examines the creation of kindergartens as part of the public school system in five states. Specific tactics that appeared to be successful and those actions that appeared to hinder passage are analyzed.

Haskins, R., & Gallagher, J. Care and Education of Young Children in America: Policy, Politics and Social Science.

This book of readings examines the development of social policy within its political context. This book contains 9 chapters, each of which is followed by critical responses. The articles, in conjunction with these
responses, add to one's understanding of the complexity involved in creating social policy for children and their families.


This article describes the author's involvement in a comprehensive program providing care to children and their families. Based upon his success, the author recommends that the public school system assume responsibility as coordinator of health, social and educational services to children. The central role of the family in making the system work is emphasized. Hobbs concludes that such an approach could create a system of support among family, school and community.


The chapters comprising this book are written by residents of each of the 14 countries. To the extent possible, the authors have examined and discussed the same variables in their exploration of family policy in their native countries. The United States is one of the 14 countries examined.

Keniston contends that the concept of the family as self-sufficient is a myth. He examines impacts on the family including governments, technology and current social assumptions. A support system for families enhancing their abilities to rear their children is recommended.

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The focus of this report is on child care services and the assumptions underlying federal involvement. Larson examines the validity of these assumptions and recommends changes that take into account a variety of family preferences for child care.

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Leik and Hill advocate an explicit family policy and examine possibilities for developing a national policy in terms of two distinctions: whether the policy is focused on conditions affecting families or conditions of families. The implications of this distinction are discussed.

A group of experts convened by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families to clarify their emerging roles developed instead four critical research and policy questions. Discussion focuses upon the need to develop responsive programs enabling families to select services consistent with their perceived needs.


Based upon his research, Mitchell describes the impact of social science research on legislative action. He contends that social science research is used by policymakers to orient themselves to problems and must be recognized as only one of the variables that policymakers must take into account.

This book is the result of the efforts of the Advisory Committee on Child Development established in 1971 at the request of the Office of Child Development. This book examines the changes that have occurred in the American family and its current needs. The Academy concluded that existing government programs are not adequately meeting the needs of America's children and their families. Reasons for the inadequacy of government efforts to meet children's needs and specific recommendations for an integrated social policy are discussed.


These authors describe the Yale Child Welfare Research Program, a comprehensive intervention project carried out by the Yale Child Study Center from 1967-1972. Implications for social policy regarding early intervention programs are presented based upon program results. Their findings support the need for a variety of services that permit and respect individual choice and recognize the perceptions of program recipients as a factor in program effectiveness.

This article reports on a nationwide survey of public, social services provided to children during 1977. The findings describe characteristics of children served and types of services received. Recommendations for child welfare policy, program planning and social work practices are provided in light of the survey findings.


Takanishi reviews the number of parties and issues involved in formulating public policy for children and families. She argues the critical need for social scientists to understand the process of policy development.


These authors present prerequisites necessary for the formulation of social policy. Specific recommendations are presented to promote public awareness of the needs of children and their families and the ways this public awareness can impact policy making.

POLITICAL ADVOCACY. IT IS NOW RECOGNIZED THAT MEETING CHILDREN'S NEEDS IS A POLITICAL ISSUE. BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CHANGING
FEDERAL PRIORITIES, IT IS BECOMING NECESSARY FOR ADVOCATES TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR PRESENTING THEIR ISSUES TO FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATURES. THESE REFERENCES INVESTIGATE VARIOUS FACETS OF POLITICAL ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.


This essay provides a description of the organization and goals of the Education Commission of the States (ECS) which is a national organization of state decision-makers in Denver, Colorado.

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This article reviews the activities of a variety of local citizen groups that have organized to meet children's unmet needs in their communities. Recommendations derived from these representative groups are then presented.

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Dear and Patti present and discuss seven empirically-based tactics for influencing legislative outcomes.

This newspaper article provides statistics that argue children's needs as equal to those of defense. Edelman's argument is presented in an effort to encourage passage of bills to prevent unnecessary removal of children from their homes, to discourage long term placement of children in foster care and to support CHAP which would have provided basic health care to children in need.


In this article, Edelman contends that advocacy for children is a political issue. Her focus is upon those actions that can expand the national consciousness about the needs of children and their families.


Ginsberg is Commissioner of the Department of Welfare for the state of West Virginia. This article describes his use of in-house research and the state-wide publication of findings as a means of changing public attitudes toward public welfare.

This conference report reviews key social trends and the implications of these changes for the development of political strategies and the emerging state role in determining policy for children and their families.


Haskins describes public policy analysis as the use of evidence and reason to select the best policy among alternatives. This article presents a set of criteria to be used as a basis for decision making. Discussions of the criteria rely upon issues surrounding child care as examples.

If knowledge is to be utilized in the service of children it must be communicated to policy-makers at appropriate times and in understandable and usable form. This essay explores how knowledge can be transferred in the process of formulating and executing policy.


The author chaired a short-term committee created to develop recommendations for a county-wide, not-for-profit day care agency. Kilmer uses the decision-making tasks of this committee as an example of early childhood policy-making. Her emphasis is upon the interpersonal negotiations that are the essence of the political nature of decision-making.


Keniston argues that children and politics are intimately linked. People who care about children have not known how to effectively participate in politics. He examines changes in the family and concludes that until family policy places greater emphasis on changing social and economic factors that contribute to family problems, social programs will not be directed toward preventing these stresses.
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This article supplies professionals with practical guidelines for researching and testifying on bills before state legislatures.

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This comprehensive article details the functions of child advocacy, the assumptions underlying advocacy, and five basic characteristics which provide for diversity in advocacy efforts.

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Lazar's paper presents the relationship between the findings of the Consortium of Longitudinal Studies and social policy regarding Head Start programs. Lindsey's rebuttal argues that the process of policy formation exposes policymakers to economic, political, cultural, social, religious and geographic variables. Consequently, social science research is only one of the variables that policymakers must take into account during the formulation and passage of policy.

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Lynn reviews why newspapers no longer consider social issues newsworthy and argues the need to bring these issues back onto the front page to increase citizen awareness.


This article focuses on what happens to programs after federal legislation and court mandates. Strategies during this post-legislative phase are presented which emphasize how barriers to effective implementation can be overcome.


Effectiveness in influencing legislators is presented in the context of legislative relationships with interest groups. Generalizations based on the political science literature are presented for a better understanding of this relationship.

Wingfield offers specific recommendations for how advocacy groups may attempt to impact legislators and state legislations.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT. THE CITATIONS LISTED BELOW DISCUSS THE GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY UPON FAMILY LIFE. THESE ARTICLES ALSO DISCUSS THE FIELD OF FAMILY-IMPACT ANALYSIS.


Beliefs about the family and relationships between families and their environments are discussed. The impact of various institutions, especially governments, are presented. An overview of private-sector institutes and NIMH endeavors in the area of the family are presented in tabular form.


Hubell presents various influences on the family by government policies and regulations. She then describes family impact studies being conducted by the Family Impact Seminar at George Washington University.

The authors discuss the influences on the family by government policies and regulations. Recommendations of the Family Impact Seminar at George Washington University are also presented.


Johnson discusses the origin of family impact studies and the commitment of the Carter Administration to families and family impact studies.

**ROLE OF THE FAMILY.** These references develop the emerging theme of the family as a mediating variable in the selection and delivery of services for their children. Such discussion reflects an ecological perspective and also touches upon the issue of parent education as a way of helping parents become more aware of the needs of their children. An understanding of current social policy and emerging trends necessitates an understanding of society's perceptions of parents and the varying attempts to use parents and children as vehicles for social reform.

Berger discusses the role of the family and community as intervening structures between children and child care services. She presents a brief history of the changing concept of the family and argues for a national family policy that reaffirms the family’s role in child-rearing.


In dialogue format, Bronfenbrenner’s recurring theme of the social forces impacting American families is presented. He argues the need for communities and businesses to become more supportive of families and their childrearing responsibilities.


Cataldo reviews the historical development of early childhood parent programs and the hypothesized relationships between parent programs and child behaviors. Emerging themes are also discussed.

Clarke-Stewart reviews the research examining family influences on child development. Her conclusions support families as mediators in providing services for their children, argue the importance of considering social contexts and examines the impact of research upon social policy.


These two articles discuss the assumptions and realities regarding parenting programs and their effectiveness. Based upon what is currently known about parenting programs, the author(s) emphasize the need to remain cautious about the possibilities of achieving successful interventions via parent-training. The first article focuses more on the assumptions underlying parent education programs, research and the implications of these findings. The second article provides a comprehensive review of the parent education literature.

Etzioni examines social forces impacting upon families, addresses the role of social policies in supporting families, and argues the need for "family impact" studies.

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In their foreword to a collection of readings, Fantani and Cardenas discuss the variety of existing family structures and the need to respect this pluralism in the development of family policy.

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These authors discuss social policy for children as society's responsibility entailing the provision of a comprehensive support system for families. This support system should enable families to make choices consistent with their goals and values.

Featherstone discusses why the family is now at the center of many political and social policy debates. His review suggests current interest in the family is the result of our romanticization of the family and a series of events that occurred during the 1960's. He warns of the danger of using the family as a solution to problems that are in reality collective problems.


Gordon argues the need for systems of social support enabling families to fulfill their parenting responsibilities; his conclusions develop from a discussion of current variables impacting upon family life which make it more difficult for families to fulfill their child-rearing responsibilities.


Current discussions on children's needs are focusing on the family as the primary unit for delivery services to children. Kagan argues that the
functions of the family depend upon whether those functions are being delineated by the state, husband, wife or child. Kagan examines each of the perspectives in light of current social changes impacting upon the family.


Lamb reviews the research on effective parenting and discusses why its findings must be utilized cautiously in family policy.


Through a history of parent education, Schlossman demonstrates that parent education is not an invention of the 1960's and has served a variety of purposes since its inception. Schlossman concludes that parent education should not be a replacement for social reform.

Skolnick provides overviews of issues surrounding family research. The composite resulting from these descriptions highlights the emerging recognition of the complex dynamics of family life.


Skolnick describes popular images of the American family in the past and present. She then examines the impact these images may have had on families and their experiences.


This article discusses the variety of different family forms and the need for social policies to be responsive to differences in the ways various family forms meet the needs of their children.