CHILDREN'S TRACKS

EXPLORING CHILDHOOD / FAMILY AND SOCIETY
Experimental Edition

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VISITOR'S PASS
U.S. House of Representatives
WASHINGTON D.C. July 30
B- 89398 Member of the House of Representatives of the United States

MASSACHUSETTS BLUE CROSS
HARVARD COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN

Kindergarten Diploma

Certificate of Recognition

Certificate of Baptism

docket
Worcester Mother Sues For Child

Child Care
Spanish-speaking pupils "neglected"

Signs of eye trouble in children

Application to NORTH CENTRAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
SCHOOL STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

KINDERGARTEN Progress Report

Academix Inc.

The Sea School

TREEHAVEN SCHOOL
TUCSON, ARIZONA

Action for Children Television
46 Austin Street, Newtonville, Massachusetts 02160 617-244-5941
Speak Out on Children's TV—Mail This Quiz

Certificate of Birth

Original Day Camp for Boys and Girls Ages 4-12
Est. 1953

Children's Protective Services, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, is a private, state-wide, nonsectarian agency. Founded in 1878, it is the only statewide agency whose primary function is to work with families in which neglect and/or abuse of children exist.
Each year the agency provides protective services to some 9,000 children in its twelve districts throughout the Commonwealth.

M.Fe14

3.

These are:
- a death certificate
- U.S. Government statistics on death rates by age, causes of death of children aged one to four
- a news item on the death of a child

Questions

What information concerning a death does this state require?

What use might be made of such information?

Activity

By looking at this data, make a list of some of the people who are concerned with children's deaths. In what ways are they concerned?

16.

This is a part of a horoscope written by someone who provides this service. It is based on facts about this child's birth time and date only.

Questions

If you were Sheila's mother, how would you view this information? How could it affect your relationship with Sheila?

Have you ever heard things like: "He's just like his father"; "Kids in this school don't want to learn"; "His whole family is musical"; "This test shows you're not college material"? What other kinds of predictions are made about children?

What happens when you expect something about someone because you've read it or been told it? Give an example.

Activity

Follow your horoscope in your newspaper for at least a week and note in your journal whether this attention to predictions about you changes what you do or how you behave.

-or-

Follow a horoscope for a child at your fieldsite and note in your journal whether this attention to predictions about him or her affects you.

14.

These are:
- an option to buy (or not to buy) school accident insurance. It was taken home to parents by their school children.
- the insurance policy which the option offers

Questions

What information does the company give about the protection this policy offers?

Why might schools encourage insurance for children?

In case of injury, what happens to children who do not have school insurance?

Activity

Talk with your fieldsite teacher about how insurance for children is handled at your fieldsite. What school insurance do teachers sometimes buy for themselves? Why?

-or-

Look at your own school insurance forms. Do you know someone who had a school accident? What was paid for?

24.

These are:
- health records on teeth, eyes, immunizations
- health statistics gathered and reported by the U.S. Government for a special conference on children
- an excerpt from a state law which allows citizens exemption from public health laws for religious reasons

Questions

From these materials, what health agencies appear to be concerned with children's health?

What health needs do these agencies try to meet?

Who has the right to decide how a child should be cared for--government, doctors, parents?

How does such record-keeping help a particular child?

How is the statistical data helpful to children?

5.

This form must be filled out and submitted to this state's Department of Education in order for a blind child to get special schooling paid for by the state.

Questions

What can you tell about this child from the information on this form?

Who takes part in filling out this form and thereby recommending this special service?

What other kinds of special needs might children have?

Do you know any handicapped children?

What difficulties might a child with special needs have in school?

Activity

Find out what opportunities are available in your community for blind children. for children whose sight or hearing is impaired. for children with other special needs.

-or-

List and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of educating handicapped children with the nonhandicapped.

-or-

Imagine you are the parent of a blind child. Why do you think you might want your child to be in this school? What would you want to tell about your child? Is there anything you hope the school might do for you as a parent?

2.

These are:
- a child's social security card
- a child's pass to see his congressman in Washington, D.C.
- a child's fingerprints on record with the FBI
- a photo record of a class of young children
- a school's computer printout card on a student
- a library card issued to a three-year-old boy
- a two-year-old's health plan membership card
- the diploma of a five-year-old completing kindergarten

Questions

Look at each of these items one at a time, considering these questions:

What can you tell about each of these children from these forms?

In what way or ways would each be used?

What messages might the child possessing the card, certificate, or picture receive about himself or herself?

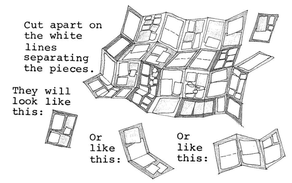
Activity

Make a collection of school pictures taken of your classmates over the years. How do you feel about the pictures? Ask your parents or your teachers for some of their school pictures. What changes are revealed by these photos of people and schools?

-or-

List some potentially helpful and harmful results of giving out diplomas (consider all ages). Have you ever received a diploma or award (educational, religious, or recreational)? How did it make you feel?

This is the cover of your Children's Tracks package. Cut pieces apart along the white lines. You should end up with 25 items and this cover sheet. Glue the cover sheet on the folder or envelope which you use to hold all the items.



The larger pieces will fold to fit into a folder or envelope.

7.

This is a form provided by a private hospital, to be filled out by parents leaving a child at the hospital for treatment.

Questions

What does this hospital consider important to know about children they serve? Why?

What decisions may be based on this information?

What might this information have to do with the service the hospital provides while the child is hospitalized?

Were you in the hospital as a child? What was it like?

Would you add any other questions to such a form?

What do children at your fieldsite understand about illness or hospitals?

Activity

If any children at your fieldsite have been at a hospital you might talk with them to find out what was important.

-or-

You might read *Curious George Goes to the Hospital* to a group of children. What do you think is the purpose of this book? What groups in this society might have helped provide that book?

23.

These are:
- two descriptions from the Civil Liberties Union newsletter and a newspaper clipping which describe law cases concerning children
- a form to request legal help to be filled out by a legal assistant
- a form for a lawyer to fill out
- a complaint filed against a juvenile
- from their newsletter, a list of proposed laws favored by The Children's Lobby, a private group organized to influence state legislation affecting children

Questions

How do you think some of the legal problems listed on the intake form could affect a child?

What are the children's rights in decisions about home placements when their own home is having difficulty caring for them? What are a parent's rights? What are the state's rights?

How do laws enter the lives of children in your community?

Where can a parent or other person in your community who is concerned with children's needs seek legal advice?

Activity

Read the case descriptions and proposed legislation. (If working in a small group each person could do two items.) Make a list of legal issues which involve children.

-or-

Interview a lawyer, or other concerned person in your community, about how rights guaranteed in the Constitution affect children.

-or-

Make a list of the areas of your life that are governed by laws.

22.

This is a kindergarten report card developed by a publishing company for schools.

Questions

Compare this form with the report cards in "Children in Society." How is it different? the same?

What values does it reflect?

What skills does it expect of kindergarten-aged children?

What sense of self might the pictures and marks convey to a child?

Activities

Fill in a copy of the form for a child you know. What does it encourage you to look for in the child? What does it leave out?

Give the form you fill in to another student as if he or she were the child's parent. What can they tell about their child from what you said?

Then have the other student roleplay being the child. Ask the student to say what the report meant to him or her.

17.

This is part of a test of intelligence which is given to young children. The test giver reads such of the instructions to the child, who is supposed to mark the pictures according to what he or she is told to do.

Questions

Where and how would children learn the knowledge required to answer these questions?

Do the questions assume that the child who must follow the instructions has any particular experiences or values? Explain.

What skills or knowledge are required to follow these instructions?

What values of the society does such a test reflect?

Activity

As a game, try doing this test with a child. Then do it with someone else in your class. After doing the test with a friend and/or a child, fill out the form on Sheet 18 about how the person being tested acted during the test.

18.

These are:
- a record booklet cover to be filled in by teacher of child taking an intelligence test
- a Red Cross test of swimming skill filled in by instructor

Questions

Judging from these forms what aspects of a child is the user interested in?

Why are there pictures on one form?

Who wants to know the information about the person tested?

How might it be used and misused? (Read the psychiatrist's account of what happened to Barry in "Children in Society.")

Are forms like either of these or those on Sheets 11, 12, 20 used for children at your fieldsite? If so, would you want to see them? Do you think you should see them?

In many societies, children learn to swim or are recognized for their abilities without such tests. Why does our society use forms like these?

What benefits and disadvantages are there in using forms like these?

Activity

Fill out the first form, describing someone who took the test on sheet 17. What do you base your answers on? Give the two completed forms to someone else to read and find out what they assume about the person who was tested based on the two forms. Ask them what use they would make of each form if they were a teacher or parent.

-or-

Compare the Analysis of Learning Potential record form and the American Red Cross swimming record. What skills are being measured in each case? Can you be sure that the person taking the test was being measured accurately in each case?

9.

Donald's mother filled this medical form out for the doctor at the family health plan.

Questions

What does the health plan's pediatrician consider important to know about young patients?

Why is the health plan concerned about these things?

What did you learn from this form about health conditions in infancy and early childhood?

Who in your community provides health care to children?

Who pays for children's health care?

What do you remember about being sick as a child?

What health problems affect children at your fieldsite?

Do the questions about vitamins, fluoride, and ipecac remind you of other groups or institutions which are involved in children's care?

Activity

Accompany a child on a visit to a doctor or health center. Try to observe how the staff there behaves toward the child; how the child reacts to the experience; what information the doctor or clinic seeks to find out about the child.

6.

Any person or group in this particular state who wants to be licensed to care for several children by the day for a fee must fill in this application.

Questions

What conditions does this state consider to be important for a child care facility?

Do you agree? Why or why not?

Is there anything else you think should be on this application form? Why?

What decisions do applicants have to make before filling out the form?

Who do you think should make these decisions?

Who do you think should provide care during the day to children in your community?

Who should pay for it?

Activity

Fill out the form for your fieldsite or for your ideal of a day care facility.

-or-

As a member of a licensing agency, decide what you would want to review: What should teachers or caretakers be like? What should they know about children? What else and who else is needed in a day care program? (Consider day care centers vs. family day care vs. care for the handicapped.)

1.

This is the birth certificate of a baby born in 1928.

Questions

What are birth certificates used for?

Look at each item on the form. Why is each piece of information asked for, i.e., what usefulness might each piece of information have?

In what helpful or harmful ways might the information be used?

Why are births recorded?

Are birth certificates necessary in all societies?

Does your fieldsite require that a birth certificate be shown for a child's enrollment?

Activity

Make a list of the information you would like to see included on a birth certificate and a list of the uses to which it might be put. You might ask each of your classmates to fill it out.

25.

These are:
- application forms for day camp, music workshop, Campfire Girls, neighborhood center, Saturday trips
- descriptions of a day care center and a group working to protect children
- rules of a community center

Questions

Private and voluntary agencies are a major socializing force in American life. Why have these organizations come into being?

What needs in the society do they respond to?

Activities

Read each of these items (in a small group, each person could take responsibility for two). After reading each one, make a list of the aspects of the child in which the group is interested. Make a list of the values which seem important to that group and a list of how each hopes to affect children in their care.

As a class, brainstorm all the private agencies that serve children in your community. If you have worked at or attended one or more, tell what it offers and what benefits you gained from it and what drawbacks you found, if any.

8.

These are:
- ways of identifying newborns in the hospital:
  - footprint identification
  - photo record
  - a bracelet with baby's name, worn immediately after birth
  - a plastic bracelet with mother's name worn before baby's birth matched by an identical one put on the baby at birth
- record of doctor's visits to mother and infant attached to the back of the baby's plastic hospital card
- pamphlet given to a new mother by her doctor telling who will have her baby's health records and continue the baby's other medical care
- baptismal record

Questions

What information does each of these provide? (The beaded bracelet is pink.)

Why might a society need these first documents for a person?

What advantages are there to birth at home? What disadvantages?

What is society's role in the decision about where a baby is born?

Activity

Brainstorm and list the ways in which the larger society is involved in a baby's birth at a hospital.

15.

These are:
- a questionnaire distributed by a private nonprofit group working to influence the kind and quality of T.V. for children. It appeared in their newsletter, with a request that concerned adults complete it and mail it in to them.
- a child's drawing of herself watching television

Questions

What seem to be the aspects of children's Television is interested in?

How do children affect television?

What needs of children and parents does television respond to?

If you were a member of Action for Children's Television, what would you work for?

Activity

Fill out this questionnaire once for a child you know (interview a mother if necessary) and once for yourself. Compare the results with other classmates. What conclusions would you draw about the effects (good and bad) of television on young children?

10.

These are:
- an application form completed by parents who want their child to attend a parochial school
- an application form for a cooperative alternative school. (Pages one and two must be filled out by the child--young children dictate their responses. Page three is filled out by the parents.)
- some descriptions of some other alternative and independent schools from advertisements and published listings of such schools

Questions

Who is responsible in your society for educating children?

Who do you think should decide where or whether a child should be sent to school?

Compare these two application forms. What can you tell about some of the concerns of these schools from the kind of information they ask for?

What messages does each item give about how that school views children? about what is good for children? about what its goals for children are? and about what it expects from parents?

Would you like to attend a different kind of school from the one you do attend? Why or why not?

What benefit do you think any children at your fieldsite could receive from another setting?

Activity

Fill each of these forms out for yourself or for a child you know. Make a list of the aspects of your daily life and development that the various schools are interested in. Write in your journal what differences there would be in how these schools would affect you.

13.

These are:
- a certificate of Bible school attendance
- an old photograph of a boy at his Bar Mitzvah
- a photograph of new communicants
- a clipping from a church brochure showing a newly baptized baby
- a photograph of a ring bearer in a wedding ceremony

Questions

What messages of society do you find in each of these items?

Who do you think may have created each of these records?

What do you think this certificate of recognition would make a child think about himself or herself?

Do religious organizations in your community provide children with any records or mementoes of their religious activities?

Activity

Make a list of all of the religious rituals children participate in. Which have you or children you know been a part of? What do you think these rituals intend to teach and what effect do you think they have? Class members could bring in family photos and records to share.

4.

This is a state government form to be filled out by people who want to adopt a child.

Questions

What does this state's Division of Child Guardianship consider important to know about people who want to adopt a child?

Why do you think they ask about your home, your educational level, your marital status, religion and nationality, your income and other items?

Do you think this information is important? Why or why not?

How private should this information be?

Who do you think should be able to see it? Who should not?

Activity

Fill out this form pretending you are an adult applying to adopt a child. Do you think the agency will be able to make a good decision about you as a parent based on this information? What feelings did you have as you completed the various blanks?

21.

This is a parental permission request from a federally funded lead poisoning prevention center. It was distributed through public and parochial schools in the city it serves.

Questions

Imagine you are a parent whose child brings this form home:
- What reactions do you have?
- What questions do you want to ask?
- What would you do? Why?

Who is concerned about lead poisoning and what are they doing about it, according to this document?

Is lead poisoning a concern in your community?

Activity

Someone in your class might want to do a research project on the causes and effects of lead poisoning.

-or-

Refer to the lists of dangerous products you made for Sheet 19. How could the hazards presented by these products be discovered and prevented?

-or-

In this case, a school will be the site of lead poison testing. Make a list of health services your school provides for children.

20.

This is a report form which must be filled in by someone who requests psychological evaluation of a child attending this child care center at the Department of Child Study at a university.

Questions

What does this preschool consider important to know about the child?

Why might they want this information?

Compare this form with the preschool application form 11. How does the information required differ? How is it the same?

Who wants to know this information?

How might this information be helpful? or harmful?

Activity

Try filling in a copy of the Introductory Report for yourself or a child you know. (You might interview a parent.) If your filled-in form were for actual school use, how might the child be affected by the school's knowing this information?

12.

This is a standard government form used for a parent to apply for government assistance for school children.

Questions

What assistance to children is offered in this particular form?

Why might such provide children with free or inexpensive school lunches, free medical care, free glasses?

What helpful and harmful effects might this practice have on children?

How might it affect a family or a child to have their income known to others?

If Spanish is your native tongue, how does it feel to have to read something in a language you don't understand?

If Spanish is your native language, how does it feel to read something in a language you don't understand?

Can you share with classmates experiences you recall in which you or your family had to cope with another language?

Activity

Find out whether your community has such a subsidized program. If so, what kinds of forms must be filled out by people who want to participate? Do you think it is a good program? What are they good for? What happens to them after they have been used?

19.

This is a complaint form provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an agency of the federal government.

Questions

Who should be responsible for the safety of products--government? consumers? business? others? Why?

What would you do if you found a product which could be harmful to children?

Do you know of anyone who has filed a complaint? What happened?

Activity

Fill in a copy of this form for a product you have used yourself or have seen children use. Consider children's clothing, toys, food, furniture, etc. Read you classmates' forms and make a list of products and what was wrong with them.

-or-

Write to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for information about how they are trying to protect children and what you as a citizen can do to help.

11.

This is a day care center form to be filled out by a parent enrolling a child.

Questions

What does this day care agency consider important to know about children?

What does the agency assume a child is capable of doing?

What decisions might the agency make based on the information they get on this form?

Activity

Fill out the form as you think members of your family might have when you were three or four. (You might get someone from your family to help you.) Discuss why someone working at the day care agency might want--or not want--to have this information.