



It's Not the Stork!

Adoptive Families

Integrating Research, Practice, and Policy

*This edited book presents the most recent theory, research and practice on information and technology literacy as it relates to the education of young children. Because computers have made it so easy to disseminate information, the amount of available information has grown at an exponential rate, making it impossible for educators to prepare students for the future without teaching them how to be effective information managers and technology users. Although much has been written about information literacy and technology literacy in secondary education, there is very little published research about these literacies in early childhood education. Recently, the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College published a position statement on using technology and interactive media as tools in early childhood programs. This statement recommends more research "to better understand how young children use and learn with technology and interactive media and also to better understand any short- and long-term effects." Many assume that today's young children are "digital natives" with a great understanding of technology. However, children may know how to operate digital technology but be unaware of its dangers or its value to extend their abilities. This book argues that information and technology literacy include more than just familiarity with the digital environment. They include using technology safely and ethically to demonstrate creativity and innovation; to communicate and collaborate; to conduct research and use information and to think critically, solve problems and make decisions.*

*Hearings on family-friendly workplaces for fathers were held in an effort to help create a corporate culture that allows fathers to take advantage of and support different workplace policies. Fathers' impact on children's development, and the reasons why it is important for fathers to be part of the parenting process, are examined. Representative Patricia Schroeder, who presided, cited America West Airlines, Merck, and DuPont as examples of family-friendly corporations. A fact sheet included for the record summarizes relevant national data, including data on fathers' attitudes toward balancing work and family, fathers' involvement in children's well-being, and employer responses to family responsibilities. Family-oriented work policies prepared by the Bureau of National Affairs are also presented in fact-sheet style. The policies cover options in the areas of the time and place of work, counseling programs, child care, leave, information and seminars, telephone access, and financial support. Prepared statements and testimony from witnesses representing such organizations as the City of Los Angeles, the Families and Work Institute, the Family Research Council, the University of Michigan, CBS (Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.), the Association of Part-Time Professionals, and the Society for Human Resource Management are included, as are prepared statements of representatives from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Virginia. (LB)*

*The new generation of scholars differs in many ways from its predecessor of just a few decades ago. Academia once consisted largely of men in traditional single-earner families. Today, men and women fill the doctoral student ranks in nearly equal numbers and most will experience both the benefits and challenges of living in dual-income households. This generation also has new expectations and values, notably the desire for flexibility and balance between careers and other life goals. However, changes to the structure and culture of academia have not kept pace with young scholars' desires for work-family balance. Do Babies Matter? is the first comprehensive examination of the relationship between family formation and the academic careers of men and women. The book begins with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, moves on to early and mid-career years, and ends with retirement. Individual chapters examine graduate school, how recent PhD recipients get into the academic game, the tenure process, and life after tenure. The authors explore the family sacrifices women often have to make to get ahead in academia and consider how gender and family interact to affect promotion to full professor, salaries, and retirement. Concrete strategies are suggested for transforming the university into a family-friendly environment at every career stage. The book draws on over a decade of research using unprecedented data resources, including the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, a nationally representative panel survey of PhDs in America, and multiple surveys of faculty and graduate students at the ten-campus University of California system..*