



Putting Children First

HOW LOW-WAGE
WORKING MOTHERS
MANAGE CHILD CARE

BY AJAY CHAUDRY

Foreword by Mary Jo Bane

Putting Children First How Low Wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care

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Putting Children First How Low Wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care:

Putting Children First Ajay Chaudry, 2004-07-22 In the five years following the passage of federal welfare reform law the labor force participation of low income single mothers with young children climbed by more than 25 percent With significantly more hours spent outside the home single working mothers face a serious childcare crunch how can they provide quality care for their children In *Putting Children First* Ajay Chaudry follows 42 low income families in New York City over three years to illuminate the plight of these mothers and the ways in which they respond to the difficult challenge of providing for their children's material and developmental needs with limited resources Using the words of the women themselves Chaudry tells a startling story Scarce subsidies complicated bureaucracies inflexible work schedules and limited choices force families to piece together care arrangements that are often unstable unreliable inconvenient and of limited quality Because their wages are so low these women are forced to rely on inexpensive caregivers who are often under qualified to serve the developmental needs of their children Even when these mothers find good affordable care it rarely lasts long because their volatile employment situations throw their needs into constant flux The average woman in Chaudry's sample had to find five different primary caregivers in her child's first four years while over a quarter of them needed seven or more in that time This book lets single low income mothers describe the childcare arrangements they desire and the ways that options available to them fail to meet even their most basic needs As Chaudry tracks these women through erratic childcare spells he reveals the strategies they employ the tremendous costs they incur and the anxiety they face when trying to ensure that their children are given proper care Honest powerful and alarming *Putting Children First* gives a fresh perspective on work and family for the disadvantaged It infuses a human voice into the ongoing debate about the effectiveness of welfare reform showing the flaws of a social policy based solely on personal responsibility without concurrent societal responsibility and suggesting a better path for the future

The Wiley Handbook of Early Childhood Development Programs, Practices, and Policies Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, Eric Dearing, 2017-01-30 The first and only comprehensive review of current early childhood development theory practices policies and the science behind them This unique and important book provides a comprehensive overview of the current theory practices and policies in early childhood development within the contexts of family school and community and society at large Moreover it synthesizes scientifically rigorous research from an array of disciplines in an effort to identify the most effective strategies for promoting early childhood development Research into childhood development is booming and the scientific knowledge base concerning early childhood development is now greater than that of any other stage of the human life span At the same time efforts to apply that knowledge to early childhood practices programs and policies have never been greater or more urgent Yet surprisingly until *The Handbook of Early Childhood Development Programs Practices and Policies* there was no comprehensive critical review of the applied science in the field The book begins with in depth coverage of child and family approaches From there

it moves onto a consideration of school and community based strategies It concludes with a discussion of current social policies on health and development in early childhood and their implications Provides a comprehensive overview of the state of the knowledge base along with guidance for the future of the field Examines the underlying theory and basic science guiding efforts to promote early childhood development Critically reviews the strength of the empirical support for individual practices programs and policies Explores key opportunities and barriers policymakers and practitioners face when implementing various approaches Pays particular attention to socioeconomically disadvantaged and other disenfranchised populations The Handbook of Early Childhood Development Programs Practices and Policies is a valuable resource for practitioners scholars graduate students and advanced undergraduate students across the social sciences who are interested in strengthening their understanding of current strategies for promoting early childhood development and the science informing those strategies

Handbook of Parenting Marc H. Bornstein, 2019-02-01 This highly anticipated third edition of the Handbook of Parenting brings together an array of field leading experts who have worked in different ways toward understanding the many diverse aspects of parenting Contributors to the Handbook look to the most recent research and thinking to shed light on topics every parent professional and policymaker wonders about Parenting is a perennially hot topic After all everyone who has ever lived has been parented and the vast majority of people become parents themselves No wonder bookstores house shelves of how to parenting books and magazine racks in pharmacies and airports overflow with periodicals that feature parenting advice However almost none of these is evidence based The Handbook of Parenting is Period Each chapter has been written to be read and absorbed in a single sitting and includes historical considerations of the topic a discussion of central issues and theory a review of classical and modern research and forecasts of future directions of theory and research Together the five volumes in the Handbook cover Children and Parenting the Biology and Ecology of Parenting Being and Becoming a Parent Social Conditions and Applied Parenting and the Practice of Parenting Volume 4 Social Conditions and Applied Parenting describes socially defined groups of parents and social conditions that promote variation in parenting The chapters in Part I on Social and Cultural Conditions of Parenting start with a relational developmental systems perspective on parenting and move to considerations of ethnic and minority parenting among Latino and Latin Americans African Americans Asians and Asian Americans Indigenous parents and immigrant parents The section concludes with considerations of disabilities employment and poverty on parenting Parents are ordinarily the most consistent and caring people in children s lives However parenting does not always go right or well Information education and support programs can remedy potential ills The chapters in Part II on Applied Issues in Parenting begin with how parenting is measured and follow with examinations of maternal deprivation attachment and acceptance rejection in parenting Serious challenges to parenting some common such as stress and depression and some less common such as substance abuse psychopathology maltreatment and incarceration are addressed as are parenting interventions intended to redress these

trials **Transforming the Financing of Early Care and Education** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Committee on Financing Early Care and Education with a Highly Qualified Workforce, 2018-07-17 High quality early care and education for children from birth to kindergarten entry is critical to positive child development and has the potential to generate economic returns which benefit not only children and their families but society at large Despite the great promise of early care and education it has been financed in such a way that high quality early care and education have only been available to a fraction of the families needing and desiring it and does little to further develop the early care and education ECE workforce It is neither sustainable nor adequate to provide the quality of care and learning that children and families need a shortfall that further perpetuates and drives inequality *Transforming the Financing of Early Care and Education* outlines a framework for a funding strategy that will provide reliable accessible high quality early care and education for young children from birth to kindergarten entry including a highly qualified and adequately compensated workforce that is consistent with the vision outlined in the 2015 report *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8 A Unifying Foundation* The recommendations of this report are based on essential features of child development and early learning and on principles for high quality professional practice at the levels of individual practitioners practice environments leadership systems policies and resource allocation *Unanticipated Gains* Mario Luis Small, 2009-07-02 Social capital theorists have shown that some people do better than others in part because they enjoy larger more supportive or otherwise more useful networks But why do some people have better networks than others *Unanticipated Gains* argues that the practice and structure of the churches colleges firms gyms childcare centers and schools in which people happen to participate routinely matter more than their deliberate networking Exploring the experiences of New York City mothers whose children were enrolled in childcare centers this book examines why a great deal of these mothers after enrolling their children dramatically expanded both the size and usefulness of their personal networks Whether how and how much the mother's networks were altered and how useful these networks were depended on the apparently trivial but remarkably consequential practices and regulations of the centers The structure of parent teacher organizations the frequency of fieldtrips and the rules regarding drop off and pick up times all affected the mothers networks Relying on scores of in depth interviews with mothers quantitative data on both mothers and centers and detailed case studies of other routine organizations Small shows that how much people gain from their connections depends substantially on institutional conditions they often do not control and through everyday processes they may not even be aware of Emphasizing not the connections that people make but the context in which they are made *Unanticipated Gains* presents a major new perspective on social capital and on the mechanisms producing social inequality **Families and Social Policy** Linda Haas, Steven K. Wisensale, 2006-11-01 Empirical research that describes ways to best handle social problems concerning families Leading

authorities studies show that from the effects of globalization many social and family problems and their solutions tend to be similar in nations world wide Families and Social Policy National and International Perspectives explores Differences That Matter Dan Zuberi,2018-07-05 This book shines a spotlight on the causes and consequences of working poverty revealing how the lives of low wage workers are affected by differences in health care labor and social welfare policy in the United States and Canada Dan Zuberi s conclusions are based on survey data eighteen months of participant observation fieldwork and in depth interviews with seventy seven hotel employees working in parallel jobs on both sides of the border Two hotel chains each with one union and one non union hotel in Seattle and Vancouver provide a vivid crossnational comparison because they are similar in so many regards the one major exception being government policy Zuberi demonstrates how labor health social welfare and public investment policy affect these hotel workers and their families His book challenges the myth that globalization necessarily means hospitality jobs must be insecure and pay poverty wages and makes clear the critical role played by government policy in the reduction of poverty and creation of economic equality Zuberi shows exactly where and how the social policies that distinguish the Canadian welfare state from the U S version make a difference in protecting Canadian workers from the hardships that burden low wage workers in the United States Differences That Matter which is filled with first person accounts ends with policy recommendations and a call for grassroots community organizing

The States of Child Care Sara Gable,2014 As the U S economy continues to falter and families face ongoing wage stagnation and widening income inequalities there is an urgent need for a better integrated approach to child care This accessible up to date account of the chronic issues plaguing child care reform offers viable solutions drawn from a model state child care system in the state of North Carolina Original data from interdisciplinary research illustrates the complex landscape of U S child care as well as the ambiguous relationship society has with the sobering statistic that 64% of women with children under six are employed and in need of reliable high quality care of their young children Book Features The history and demographics of U S child care policy Analysis of several persistent forces impeding the emergence of a national child care system Contemporary ideas about motherhood employment and providing child care for pay An extensive review of research on child care and child development Recommendations focusing on policy integration and workforce development In The States of Child Care Sara Gable gives voice to the perspectives of parents practitioners and advocates to help readers deepen their understanding of our past what needs to change in the present and what strategies they can use to make progress now From the Foreword by Marcy Whitebook Director Center for the Study of Child Care Employment Berkeley CA Sara Gable is an associate professor and extension specialist in the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology at the University of Missouri

Handbook of Work-Family Integration Karen Korabik,Donna S. Lero,Denise L. Whitehead,2011-04-28 In today s industrialized societies the majority of parents work full time while caring for and raising their children and managing household upkeep trying to keep a precarious balance of fulfilling multiple roles

as parent worker friend child Increasingly demands of the workplace such as early or late hours travel commute relocation etc conflict with the needs of being a parent At the same time it is through work that people increasingly define their identity and self worth and which provides the opportunity for personal growth interaction with friends and colleagues and which provides the income and benefits on which the family subsists The interface between work and family is an area of increasing research in terms of understanding stress job burn out self esteem gender roles parenting behaviors and how each facet affects the others The research in this area has been widely scattered in journals in psychology family studies business sociology health and economics and presented in diverse conferences e g APA SIOP Academy of Management It is difficult for experts in the field to keep up with everything they need to know with the information dispersed This Handbook will fill this gap by synthesizing theory research policy and workplace practice organizational policy issues in one place The book will be useful as a reference for researchers in the area as a guide to practitioners and policy makers and as a resource for teaching in both undergraduate and graduate courses

Poverty and Power Edward Royce, 2009 Poverty and Power suggests that today's poverty results from deep rooted disparities in income wealth and power The rate and severity of poverty remain high because millions of Americans are trapped in low wage jobs inadequately served by government policy excluded from mainstream policy debates and victimized by discrimination and social exclusion

Stretched Thin Sandra Morgen, Joan Acker, Jill Weigt, 2013-09-30 When the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act became law in 1996 the architects of welfare reform celebrated what they called the new consensus on welfare that cash assistance should be temporary and contingent on recipients seeking and finding employment However assessments about the assumptions and consequences of this radical change to the nation's social safety net were actually far more varied and disputed than the label consensus suggests By examining the varied realities and accountings of welfare restructuring Stretched Thin looks back at a critical moment of policy change and suggests how welfare policy in the United States can be changed to better address the needs of poor families and the nation Using ethnographic observations in depth interviews with poor families and welfare workers survey data tracking more than 750 families over two years and documentary evidence Sandra Morgen Joan Acker and Jill Weigt question the validity of claims that welfare reform has been a success They show how poor families welfare workers and welfare administrators experienced and assessed welfare reform differently based on gender race class and their varying positions of power and control within the welfare state The authors document the ways that despite the dramatic drop in welfare rolls low wage jobs and inadequate social supports left many families struggling in poverty Revealing how the neoliberal principles of a drastically downsized welfare state and individual responsibility for economic survival were implemented through policies and practices of welfare provision and nonprovision the authors conclude with new recommendations for reforming welfare policy to reduce poverty promote economic security and foster shared prosperity

Gender, Sexuality, and Intimacy: A Contexts Reader Jodi O'Brien, Arlene Stein, SAGE

Publications, Inc.,2017-01-13 This new anthology from SAGE brings together over 90 recent readings on gender sexuality and intimate relationships from Contexts the award winning magazine published by the American Sociological Association Each contributor is a contemporary sociologist writing in the clear concise and jargon free style that has made Contexts the public face of sociology Jodi O Brien and Arlene Stein former Contexts Editors have chosen pieces that are timely thought provoking and especially suitable for classroom use written introductions that frame each of the books three main sections and provided questions for discussion

Destinies of the Disadvantaged Frank F. Furstenberg,2007-11-15 Teen childbearing has risen to frighteningly high levels over the last four decades jeopardizing the life chances of young parents and their offspring alike particularly among minority communities Or at least that s what politicians on the right and left often tell us and what the American public largely believes But sociologist Frank Furstenberg argues that the conventional wisdom distorts reality In Destinies of the Disadvantaged Furstenberg traces the history of public concern over teen pregnancy exploring why this topic has become so politically powerful and so misunderstood Based on over forty years of Furstenberg s research on teen childbearing Destinies of the Disadvantaged relates how the issue emerged from obscurity to become one of the most heated social controversies in America Both slipshod research by social scientists and opportunistic grandstanding by politicians have contributed to public misunderstanding of the issue Although out of wedlock teen pregnancy rose notably between 1960 and 1990 a cause for concern given the burdens of single motherhood at a young age this trend did not reflect a rise in the rate of overall teen pregnancies In fact teen pregnancy actually declined dramatically in the 1960s and 1970s The number of unmarried teenage mothers rose after 1960 not because more young women became pregnant but because those who did increasingly chose not to rush into marriage Furstenberg shows how early social science research on this topic exaggerated the adverse consequences of early parenthood both for young parents and for their children Researchers also inaccurately portrayed single teenage motherhood as a phenomenon concentrated among minorities Both of these misapprehensions skewed subsequent political debates The issue became a public obsession and remained so during the 1990s even as rates of out of wedlock teen childbearing plummeted Addressing teen pregnancy was originally a liberal cause led by advocates of family planning services legalized abortion and social welfare programs for single mothers The issue was later adopted by conservatives who argued that those liberal remedies were encouraging teen parenthood According to Furstenberg the flexible political usefulness of the issue explains its hold on political discourse The politics of teen parenthood is a fascinating case study in the abuse of social science for political ends In Destinies of the Disadvantaged Furstenberg brings that tale to life with the perspective of a historian and the insight of an insider and provides the straight facts needed to craft effective policies to address teen pregnancy

Invisible Americans Jeff Madrick,2020-12-01 An essential and impossible to ignore examination of one of the most pressing harmful and heartbreaking problems facing our country the widespread poverty among American children By official count more than one

out of every six American children live beneath the poverty line But statistics alone tell little of the story In *Invisible Americans* Jeff Madrick brings to light the often invisible reality and irreparable damage of child poverty in America Keeping his focus on the children he examines the roots of the problem including the toothless remnants of our social welfare system entrenched racism and a government unmotivated to help the most voiceless citizens Backed by new and unambiguous research he makes clear the devastating consequences of growing up poor living in poverty even temporarily is detrimental to cognitive abilities emotional control and the overall health of children The cost to society is incalculable The inaction of politicians is unacceptable Still Madrick argues there may be more reason to hope now than ever before Rather than attempting to treat the symptoms of poverty we might be able to ameliorate its worst effects through a single simple and politically feasible policy that he lays out in this impassioned and urgent call to arms

How Qualitative Data Analysis Happens Áine M Humble, M. Elise Radina, 2018-12-07 Winner of the 2020 Anselm Strauss Award for Qualitative Family Research National Council on Family Relations How is qualitative data actually collected analyzed and accomplished Real stories of How Qualitative Data Analysis Occurs Moving Beyond Themes Emerged offers an in depth look into how qualitative social science researchers studying family issues and dynamics approach their data analyses It moves beyond the usual vague statement of themes emerged from the data to show readers how researchers actively and consciously arrive at their themes and conclusions revealing the complexity and time involved in making sense of thousands of pages of interview data multiple data sources and diverse types of data How Qualitative Data Analysis Occurs focuses on a diversity of topics in family research across the life course The various authors provide detailed narratives into how they analyzed their data from previous publications and what methodologies they used ranging from arts based research autoethnography community based participatory research ethnography grounded theory to narrative analysis Supplemental figures images and screenshots which are referred to in the chapters are included in an accompanying eResource as well as links to the previously published work on which the chapters are based This book is an invaluable resource for experienced and novice qualitative researchers throughout the social sciences

The Maid's Daughter Mary Romero, 2012-12-31 At a very young age Olivia left her family and traditions in Mexico to live with her mother Carmen in one of Los Angeles's most exclusive and nearly all white gated communities Based on over twenty years of research Romero brings Olivia's remarkable story to life We watch as she struggles through adolescence declares her independence and eventually goes off to college and becomes a successful professional Much of her story is told in Olivia's voice and we hear of both her triumphs and her setbacks Romero explores this story about belonging identity and resistance illustrating Olivia's challenge to establish her sense of identity and the patterns of inclusion and exclusion in her life Romero points to the hidden costs of paid domestic labor that are transferred to the families of private household workers and nannies and shows how everyday routines are important in maintaining and assuring that various forms of privilege are passed on from one generation to another She shows how

mythologies of meritocracy the land of opportunity and the American dream remain firmly in place while simultaneously erasing injustices and the struggles of the working poor From publisher description Child Care Today Penelope Leach, 2010-02-09 From the universally admired author of the bestselling classic *Your Baby and Child* a masterful work that could revolutionize the way America cares for its young children and bring about a radical improvement in the lives of children and their parents The Boston Globe Who is caring for today's children How well are they succeeding What does care cost and who is paying for it Leach answers these and other urgent questions with facts and figures gathered from the most current research brought to life by the voices of parents including those involved in her own five year study She highlights the urgent need in America today for measures to raise the quality of child care and to make the best care we can provide available to all families just as it is in most other developed nations Setting out clearly and candidly what is known about every aspect of child care including the often hidden feelings and fears of parents Leach presents a critical case for change

Cradle to Kindergarten Ajay Chaudry, Taryn Morrissey, Christina Weiland, Hirokazu Yoshikawa, 2021-03-25 Early care and education in the United States is in crisis The period between birth and kindergarten is a crucial time for a child's development Yet vast racial ethnic and socioeconomic disparities that begin early in children's lives contribute to starkly different long term outcomes for adults Compared to other advanced economies child care and preschool in the U S are scarce prohibitively expensive and inadequate in quality for most middle and low income families To what extent can early life opportunities provide these children with the same life chances of their affluent peers and contribute to reduced social inequality in the long term and across generations The updated second edition of *Cradle to Kindergarten* offers a comprehensive evidence based strategy that diagnoses the obstacles to accessible early education and charts a path to opportunity for all children The U S government invests less in children under the age of five than do most other developed nations Most working families must seek private child care but high quality child care options are expensive relative to the means of most families This means that children from lower income households who would benefit most from high quality early education are the least likely to attend them Existing policies such as pre kindergarten in some states are only partial solutions and what exists varies tremendously in terms of access and quality To address these deficiencies the authors propose to overhaul the early care and education system beginning with a federal paid parental leave policy that provides both mothers and fathers with time and financial support after the birth of a child They also advance an expansion of the child care tax credit and a new child care assurance program that provides grant assistance towards the cost of high quality early care for low and moderate income families Their plan establishes universal high quality early education in the states starting by age three and a reform of the Head Start program that would include more intensive services for families living in areas of concentrated poverty and experiencing multiple adversities from the earliest point in these most disadvantaged children's lives They conclude with an implementation plan and contend that these reforms are attainable well within a ten

year timeline Reducing educational and economic inequalities requires that all children have robust opportunities to learn and fully develop their capacities and have a fair shot at success Cradle to Kindergarten presents a blueprint for fulfilling this promise by expanding access to educational and financial resources at a critical stage of child development **Social Forces** ,2006 *Contemporary Perspectives On Early Childhood Education* Yelland, Nicola,2010-03-01 This book considers and interrogates a range of new and critical issues in contemporary early childhood education It discusses both fundamental and emerging topics in the field and presents them in the context of reflective and contemporary frameworks

Enjoying the Tune of Expression: An Psychological Symphony within **Putting Children First How Low Wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care**

In some sort of used by monitors and the ceaseless chatter of fast connection, the melodic splendor and psychological symphony produced by the published word frequently disappear in to the back ground, eclipsed by the persistent noise and disturbances that permeate our lives. But, nestled within the pages of **Putting Children First How Low Wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care** a marvelous fictional value filled with natural emotions, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Crafted by an outstanding musician of language, that interesting masterpiece conducts visitors on a psychological journey, skillfully unraveling the concealed songs and profound impact resonating within each carefully crafted phrase. Within the depths of the touching review, we can investigate the book is central harmonies, analyze their enthralling publishing type, and submit ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

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Putting Children First How Low Wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care Introduction

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