

**“Understanding Early Care and Education Participation Among Immigrant Families”**

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**Themes:** Child Wellbeing

**Regions:** North America

**Age Ranges:** <6

**Keywords:** Education/Cognitive Skills

**Abstract:** Young children of immigrants face many hardships that put them at greater risk for negative early childhood development and limit the likelihood that they will enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Although these children stand to benefit greatly from early education programs, they currently participate at lower rates than children of U.S.-born citizens. More research is needed to enable communities to effectively serve the growing numbers of immigrant families and to develop diverse strategies to meet the needs of immigrants from every country of origin. While they face difficulties, these children—the majority of whom are citizens and will live in the United States permanently—strengthen our country by contributing to its rich cultural and linguistic diversity. It is imperative that these children have access to high-quality education to lessen their vulnerability to hardships and to promote their healthy development and educational success.