

Announcing *Welcoming Newcomer Children* – a New Book on the Settlement of Young Immigrants and Refugees

Do you have young immigrant and refugee children in your early child care program or kindergarten classroom? Are you responsible for services for young children and their families? Do you want a better understanding of the settlement process? If so, a new book by Judith Colbert will be of value to you.

Under the title, *Welcoming Newcomer Children: The Settlement of Young Immigrants and Refugees*, Colbert explores settlement from the perspective of the child. Although primarily directed to readers with an interest in supporting young newcomers from birth through kindergarten, much of the information is also relevant to older children.

Colbert is familiar with the issues. As a writer, researcher and training specialist, much of her work focuses on newcomer children. For example, she is principal author of Canada's *National LINC Childminding Requirements* and took the lead in developing an innovative new program of occasional childcare for newcomers funded in Ontario by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. "As an early care and education consultant" Colbert says, "I try to take an international approach. I wrote *Welcoming Newcomer Children* to achieve my long-time goal of building bridges between research and practice, mainstream and newcomer experiences."

At the outset, Colbert establishes that young children experience settlement much as adults do, and sets out a definition that echoes throughout *Welcoming Newcomer Children*. Early on, she also considers the distinctive settlement needs of young children and the relationship between culture and settlement. In exploring cultural transmission by parents, teachers and peers, she invites the reader to examine his or her own role in the settlement process. Finally, focusing specifically on school readiness as the major settlement challenge for young children, Colbert calls for a re-examination of benchmarks of program quality in light of barriers experienced by newcomers.

Welcoming Newcomer Children offers a new perspective on child settlement. It draws on international research in various fields to examine values and beliefs from both Western and Non-Western points of view. It questions accepted practices, priorities and standards, and suggests new strategies for working with young children.

Welcoming Newcomer Children is a comprehensive resource. It invites reader reflection with a recurring feature entitled "*Something to Think About*" and supports teachers and caregivers with discussions of hands-on situations under the heading "Implications for Practice." It concludes an analysis of 10 Mainstream Benchmarks of Quality and proposes 10 Steps to Quality for Newcomers. It is fully referenced with a bibliography and index.

For more information and to order, go to www.welcomingchildren.ca