

CONCERNING THIS ISSUE

An overview of children's rights was presented in the Fall issue of *Educational Perspectives*. In that issue, general areas such as history and legislation were covered—as well as more specific topics involving child rights in the courts, schools and home. In this Winter issue, we will continue with the topic of children's rights but emphasize certain philosophical and research topics.

The first three articles present different viewpoints related to extending greater self-determination rights to children. Baumrind stresses the importance of the principle of reciprocity, questioning the advisability of extending rights to children that place more demands on parents and that additionally limit parental rights.

Melton writes on the possible positive effects of increased autonomy in children, including the facilitation of moral development and of legal socialization. Parks discusses a dilemma that may occur when both the protection and rights of children must be provided by parents. Can parents protect their children and still facilitate the ability of their children to make good decisions?

The final three articles are related to research in children's rights. Blaine, Lee and Wong discuss certain methodological issues concerned with research that, mainly, revolve around the use of factor analysis. Morton and Dubanoski present some of the research their team has conducted on people's perception of children's rights. Their work, for example, illustrates the importance of separating rights into two categories—age-dependent and age-independent rights. Margolin deals with an area that has received very little attention: how children view their own rights. In many areas, her data indicate that children support the leadership role of adults although some variations occur according to the sex and age of the child.

We hope that these two issues of *Educational Perspectives* have enhanced the knowledge of our readers about children's rights. We have attempted to sensitize our readership and give them an overview of the area in general, as well as some of the more specific issues involved in children's rights, both from a philosophical and an empirical viewpoint. Whether the children's rights movement will have the impact that other movements have had—for example, ethnic minorities and women—remains to be seen. Its direction and effect will be due, in part, to all of our efforts. We wish to express our hope that these issues will serve to stimulate ideas and programs that support the best interests of children.

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Associate Editors for the Issue