



Welcome to the *ANCIE Bulletin*, a monthly electronic newsletter that explores different topics about newcomer children.

Who are Newcomer Children?

Newcomer Children are children aged 0-12 years, born abroad or in Canada, with one or both parents having immigrant, refugee or temporary resident status. The term “newcomer” is used rather than “immigrant,” as it is inclusive of categories that may not fit under the classification of “immigrant.” It includes temporary foreign workers, live-in caregivers, and international students..

Why focus on Newcomer Children?

It is often assumed that children adapt more quickly to change than adults. However, similar to adults, newcomer children may face complex and conflicting emotions, such as excitement, fear of the unknown, or sadness due to separation from loved ones. For some newcomer children, the immigration process represents an easy transition, and they are able to integrate into the community without much effort. However, for others, it can be an uphill battle that leads to frustration, loneliness, or aggression. Newcomer children often require specialized supports to help them in their transition to a new country.

What is AMSSA doing?

In 2009, AMSSA launched a new initiative called the AMSSA Newcomer Children’s Advocate Program to build capacity in the area of early and middle childhood of newcomer children. AMSSA is currently working with its member agencies and other stakeholders to improve the outcomes for newcomer children—their cultural transitions, their social integration, their schooling outcomes, and their physical and mental well-being.

As part of the initiative, AMSSA launched a new website called the AMSSA Newcomer Children’s Information Exchange (ANCIE), which provides an overview of issues confronting newcomer children, as well as current research, educational materials, and resources for service providers, educators, policy makers and the general public. The information can be accessed through a searchable database, or by browsing the following themes: Early Childhood Education, English as a Second Language, Family Dynamics, Health and Wellness, Multiculturalism and Identity, Adaptation and Integration, Schooling, and Socio-Economic Background. To access the ANCIE website, please click [here](#).

SOME NEWCOMER CHILDREN FACTS:

- British Columbia has a population of 4,074,380, of which 1,119,215 are immigrants. 90,155 immigrants are under the age of five, and 193,535 are between 5-14 years old. (2006 Census, Statistics Canada)
- In 2009, 885 individuals arrived as Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) – 135 are between 6-12 years, and 86 are under the age of six. (ISSofBC Government-Assisted Refugee Bulletin, January 2010)
- Between January and March 2009, the top source countries for newcomers to BC were China, India, English, USA, Taiwan, South Korea, Iran, Germany and Japan. (Immigration Highlights, First Quarter 2009, BC Stats)
- In Vancouver, 60% of students speak one of the 126 identified languages other than English at home (Vancouver School Board).
- Live-in caregivers are restricted from bringing their families to Canada until they have completed the required 24 months of live-in work within three years. It takes an average of three to five years after a live-in caregiver receives permanent status to be reunited with her children. (Canadian Council for Refugees, March 2006)
- For every \$1 invested in Early Childhood Education programs, there is \$16 return to the community in investment through significant reductions in crime rates, health and other social program costs. (High/Scope Perry Preschool Study, November 2004)





What information will be included in the ANCIE Bulletins?

The ANCIE Bulletin will explore different topics related to newcomer children. There are a number of service providers, educators and researchers currently working with newcomer children to help them succeed, but their work is rarely documented. The ANCIE Bulletins will provide an opportunity to feature some of their work, strategies, service models, success stories and/or research. Each issue will also include a relevant case study. The following topics will be explored in the coming months: English as a Second Language, Early Childhood Education, Health and Wellness, Refugee Children, etc. To subscribe, please email newcomerchildren@amssa.org.

How can you become involved?

READ...

the monthly ANCIE Bulletins.

SHARE...

what you learn with your colleagues, friends, family, etc.

ACT...

by incorporating new ideas into your work.

AMSSA gratefully acknowledges the United Way of the Lower Mainland for its financial support.

About AMSSA:

The Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA) is provincial not-for-profit, non-partisan umbrella organization representing and serving over 75 immigrant settlement and multicultural agencies in British Columbia. AMSSA members are mandated to address a broad spectrum of multicultural and immigrant settlement and integration issues in their communities. AMSSA acts as a central resource for member community agencies working in large urban centres and smaller communities. AMSSA's services and engagement extend to all levels of government, as well as to relevant public institutions, the private sector, community groups, and the general public. For more information, please visit www.amssa.org.

For more information about AMSSA's Newcomer Children's Advocate Program, please contact Rishima Bahadoorsingh at newcomerchildren@amssa.org.

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Mini Survey:

The next ANCIE Bulletin will look at English as a Second Language. What are some of the challenges that newcomer children face when learning English as an additional language? What are some successful strategies that you have used?

Please send your answers to:
newcomerchildren@amssa.org

