



For in-depth information, contact The Children's Aid Society at (212) 358-8930 to get a complete set of KNOW YOUR RIGHTS brochures and other legal advocacy publications in both English and Spanish. You may also log onto www.childrensaidsociety.org.

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

immigrant families and public schools

Hotlines

If you have questions or problems, the following numbers may be helpful. You may also talk to your Children's Aid Society caseworker if you need assistance.

- New York Immigration Hotline.....(718) 899-4000
- Department of Education
 - General Information(718) 935-2000
 - Office of Multilingual and Multi-Cultural Education(718) 935-3984
 - Office of Parent Advocacy(718) 935-5202
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
 - Immunization Hotline(212) 349-2664



For over 150 years, The Children's Aid Society has been assisting New York City's children and their families without regard to race, religion, nationality or socio-economic status. Children's Aid helps children in every aspect of their lives from infancy through adolescence, providing guidance and resources to ensure a child's current well-being and future potential. With over 100 programs and 40 locations in New York that touch the lives of more than 150,000 children every year, Children's Aid is one of the country's largest and most innovative child and family social service agencies.

www.childrensaidsociety.org



School is your child's road to success. Your child has a right to go to school. It doesn't matter if you or your children are citizens, legal immigrants, or undocumented immigrants.



To register for school, students only need to have:

- A parent or guardian to register them
- Proof of name and age, which may be provided by a birth or baptismal certificate
- Proof of address, such as a utility bill, landlord letter or lease, or bank statement
- Immunization records, which may be obtained from your doctor

You do not need a Social Security number to enroll your child in school.

School officials, such as secretaries, teachers, counselors, principals or aides, may not ask questions about you or your child's immigration status. If they ask, you need not answer them or you may say that you are not required to provide that information.

Your child's immunizations can be provided at a school, a neighborhood health clinic, or at one of The Children's Aid Society's clinics.

Call 311 for exact locations or call (212) 949-4800 to get the location for a Children's Aid Society site. At the clinic you may be asked to sign a consent form that states that you understand and approve of the treatment your child is receiving. Clinic workers will also ask about your child's medical history and insurance coverage.

If your child does not have medical insurance, you may ask your Children's Aid Society social worker to assist you with enrollment through Children's Aid Society's Health Care Access Program (HCAP), which can enroll your child in health insurance regardless of immigration status, or call HCAP at (212) 503-6804 to find the site nearest you.

Since all children are entitled to receive immunizations, clinic workers do not need to know anything about your immigration status.

Your child has a right to receive free or reduced-cost lunch and breakfast, depending on your income.

All children, including undocumented immigrants, can receive meals if they are members of low-income families. For your child to participate in the Department of Education's school breakfast and lunch program, you must fill out an application. The application asks for a Social Security number, but your child can be in the program without one if your income is low enough.

Someone from the Department of Education may call and ask questions about how much money your family earns in order to find out if your child qualifies for the lunch program. The questions should relate only to your finances, not your immigration status.



Your child has a right to participate in either Bilingual or English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes if he or she has limited English skills.

All new parents complete a Department of Education survey about the language they use at home to identify children whose English skills should be tested.

Students found to have limited English proficiency have a right to learn subjects such as math, science and social studies in their primary language while they develop English language skills.

If you or your child does not have medical insurance, call The Children's Aid Society's Health Care Access Program (HCAP) at (212) 503-6804 to enroll your child in health insurance, regardless of immigration status. See also, **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: HOW TO ENROLL IN MEDICAID AND CHILD HEALTH PLUS** for more information, available by calling (212) 358-8930 or log onto www.childrensaidsociety.org.
