

Western Illinois University
2021 Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Conference

Abstract

Recorded Scholarly Presentation

Major: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Tammy Werner

Policy Brief: An End to Childhood Neglect

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The project described here is a work in progress for the Senior Capstone course in the Liberal Arts and Sciences. For this project, I am conducting research and writing a policy brief that advocates for more after school programs with benefits to decrease childhood neglect. Childhood neglect has been an on-going social justice issue for as long as I can remember. Instead of focusing on changing the ways of these children's parents, I would like to focus on ways we can prevent the neglect, and help the children thrive in such terrible circumstances. Many policies and articles concerning this issue include ways for teachers to help in school, ways for parents to improve, and ways that children can be educated on this issue. Although I agree with these policies, and think they are very effective, I would like to steer out of our comfort zones and think outside of the box. How can we go out of our way to help the children in need right now? We already know the ways in which we can be educated on this and prevent this, but we need to know more of how we can take action now. I would like to discuss a policy that involves a free after school program for children to be able to stay at school, get their homework done, eat dinner, avoid neglect, and increase their safety. My policy brief includes a program where children are allowed to stay after school in all school districts until 6:00 P.M..