Information for Contributors

Child Development Perspectives (CDP) emphasizes brief, well synthesized reviews of research, typically focusing on emerging lines of inquiry in developmental science. The journal sometimes publishes essays on policy, statistics and methods, and on other topics suitable for the readership. Papers are welcome from all fields that inform modern developmental science. Manuscripts reporting new empirical findings are not appropriate for CDP.

Most articles appearing in CDP are commissioned by editorial staff. Authors who have ideas for a possible submission are encouraged to submit a proposal at the journal’s online submission site. Both types of articles undergo peer review.

Authors are asked to make their submissions accessible to the full spectrum of the CDP readership, which includes scientists, students, policy makers, and the media. Plain language is preferred whenever possible; jargon should be avoided. Because of the international nature of the readership, authors should avoid writing that assumes the reader is a citizen of or is intimately familiar with the author’s country.

Invited submissions are limited to 3,000 words (the word count includes the main text plus notes, acknowledgments, and appendices but not the abstract, tables, figure legends or reference list) and a reference list not exceeding 40 cited articles. There is no limit to the number of tables or figures but most published articles will have no more than four figures and tables total.

Author-initiated proposals for articles are limited to 500 words and 15 references. The 500-word limit does not include the references. The proposal should provide an overview of the proposed manuscript and indicate why the topic is particularly well suited for CDP.

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The manuscript should be prepared as a .doc, .docx, or .rtf file (not as .pdf or .tex files) and should be double-spaced throughout with 12-point font. Please follow all guidelines on format, style, and ethics provided in the Publication Manual (6th ed.) of the American Psychological Association.

Manuscript Review

On receipt, a manuscript is evaluated by journal staff for its conformity to the overall guidelines and policies of the journal. Manuscripts invited by the editor and author-initiated proposals are subject to peer review. Cover sheets and other identifying information are removed to facilitate blind review. The corresponding author will be notified of an editorial decision, typically within 8 weeks. Manuscripts accepted for publication are often edited extensively to improve readability and accessibility. Copies of the submission and associated correspondence are retained in the SRCD archives.

Inquiries and suggestions regarding editorial policy may be directed to Robert V. Kail, Editor in Chief, Child Development Perspectives, at cdp@srcd.org.

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