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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.CHICAGOCHILD
Title  Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit. Collection
Date  1911
Size  7.5 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  The Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit was held 11-25 May, 1911. It was the largest and most comprehensive exhibition devoted to child welfare of its time. It sought to combat rising infant and child mortality in Chicago by raising awareness about health, education, and recreation.

Information on Use

Access  The collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit. Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note  The Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit was held 11-25 May, 1911. Modeled on a similar exhibition held in New York City the year before, it was the largest and most comprehensive exhibition devoted to child welfare ever held. It was born out of concern for squalid living conditions in an industrial city, which contributed to rising crime and an infant mortality rate more than twice the national average. The exhibit targeted poor and immigrant communities in Chicago, attempting to raise awareness about the benefits of nutrition, hygiene, and physical activity. It also provided information about vocational opportunities. The exhibit emphasized links between unhygienic living and socially unacceptable behavior, and between crime and mental degeneracy. National and local welfare organizations were represented, notably the National Federation of Settlements, the Federation of Day Nurseries, the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, and the Juvenile Protection Association of Chicago. Information was distributed in German, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, and Swedish. The program included a number of activities for children.
Scope Note
The Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit Collection contains instructional pamphlets, broadsides, and artifacts distributed at the exhibit. These deal with health, morality, education, and recreation. The collection also includes two photo albums documenting the exhibit, and a chart detailing initiatives in the Chicago area run by the National Federation of Settlements. All materials date to circa 1911.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Child welfare -- Illinois -- Chicago
• Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit

INVENTORY
Box 1
Folder 1
  Exhibit program
Box 1
Folder 2
  Pregnancy and infants
Box 1
Folder 3
  Family health and nutrition
Box 1
Folder 4
  Family health and hygiene
Box 1
Folder 5
  Child socializing and play
Box 1
Folder 6
  Youth education and vocation
Box 1
Folder 7
  Recreational activities in Chicago
Box 1
Folder 8
  Crime and morality
Box 1
Folder 9
  Religion
Box 1
Folder 10
   Federation of Day Nurseries and Juvenile Homes
Box 1
Folder 11
   Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago
Box 1
Folder 12
   Foreign language materials
Box 2
Box 3
   Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit photograph album, Vol. II
Box DRAWER 8
Folder 1
   Chicago Settlements chart