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Child labor evokes images of exploitation. And yet, it’s complicated. Through one photographer’s lens, we can see children working under terrible conditions, and we also can see children working along with their families, children reading while they work, children playing in workplaces, and children doing schoolwork. Through these images, we view children across the globe as more than just “objects” who are manipulated by adults. Though relatively powerless, they are also active subjects who see the world through their own perspectives and act on it as agents.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER
David Parker is an occupational medicine physician affiliated with the Environmental Health Sciences Program at the University of Minnesota, and Senior Physician Researcher at HealthPartners. He has been traveling the globe and documenting images of child labor for three decades.

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THIRD FLOOR

Begging
1. Children begging in Mumbai, India, 1995
2. Child playing accordion, Peru, 1997
3. Children begging in Lima, Peru, 1997

Newsboys
4. Newsboy in India, 1993
5. Newsboy in Chicago, 1995

Agricultural sector work
8. Camel herder in Jaisalmer, India, 1993
9. Field worker in Ecuador, 2002

Other kinds of jobs
10. Street vendor in Acapulco, Mexico, 1992
11. Circus worker with leopard, India, 1995
12. In window: Barber, India, date unknown
13. In window: Street vendor preparing food, India, 2011

Service work
15. Girl working at the Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul MN, 1996

Garbage collection and recycling
16. Child flying a kite in Acapulco dump, Mexico, 1996
17. Girl playing with toy found in Acapulco dump, Mexico, 1996
18. Boys sorting plastic bottles, Cambodia, 2013

Domestic work
19. Children playing at a well in Nicaragua, 2004
20. Family shelling seafood, Nicaragua, 2004
21. Girls carrying water buckets, Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017
22. Girl doing laundry, Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017

SECOND FLOOR

Brick production
23. Little girl turning drying bricks in Nepal, 2011
24. Girls under umbrella, giving tokens for bricks carried in Kathmandu, Nepal, 1995
25. Girl loading bricks in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2013
27. Boys playing in brickyard in Nepal, 2015

Skilled labor
28. Metal worker in Marrakesh, Morocco, 1997
29. Motorcycle mechanic, Cambodia, 2013
30. Auto mechanics, Morocco, 1997
31. Girls embroidering, India, 1993
32. Girls making bangles, India, 2011

Mining
33. Tin miner and Pacha Mamba guardian statue, Bolivia, 1998
34. Hauling sand at a diamond mine in Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017
35. In window: Small child carrying bucket of sand at a diamond mine in Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017
36. In window: Boy shoveling sand at a diamond mine, Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017
37. Girl in superhero shirt at a diamond mine in Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017
38. Boys swimming and playing in mud, Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017

Service work: food & restaurants
39. Little boy carrying bowls at a restaurant, Jaipur, India 1993

About the Photographer Information Panel

Children reading and studying
40. Boy doing homework, Tikonko Chiefdom, Sierra Leone, 2017
41. Restaurant workers reading comic book, India, 1993
42. Market vendors reading, Acapulco, Mexico, 1993
43. Little girl reading, Cambodia, 2013
44. Street vendor reading, Acapulco, Mexico, 1992