

Opening Ceremony and the First Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia

Inauguration of the Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia

◆November 11-14, 2007

◆East China Normal University, Shanghai, China
Changsha Normal College, Changsha, China



Opening Ceremony in Shanghai

The opening ceremony was held at East China Normal University in Shanghai on November 12, 2007. Dr. Jiaxiong Zhu, Director of the Institute of Early Childhood Education, East China Normal University and Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, Director, CRN pledged cooperation.



Lecture and Early Childhood Education Exhibition in Changsha

Speakers and Presenters:

Noboru Kobayashi (Director, CRN; Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo)

Chihiro Tada (Director, Tokyo Toy Museum)

Jiaxiong Zhu (Professor, East China Normal University)

Tokie Anme (Professor, University of Tsukuba)

Yoichi Sakakihara (Professor, Ochanomizu University)

*In order of presentation; titles and affiliations as of November 2007

The first session at Changsha Normal College on November 13 and 14, with presentations by Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, Mr. Chihiro Tada, Professor Tokie Anme, and Professor Yoichi Sakakihara, attracted much interest and stimulated lively exchange.

The Importance of the Joy of Living in Child Development

Noboru Kobayashi

In order to stimulate the program of emotions that enables children to experience the joy of living, it is necessary to consider the methods of child-rearing, child care, and early childhood education from an interdisciplinary perspective that includes, for example, brain science, psychology, education, pediatrics, and child ecology. Child Science is one such viewpoint that brings together various fields to bridge the science and the humanities.



The Endangered Capacity in Children for Play

Chihiro Tada

Due to the increasing popularity of high-tech toys, Japanese children experience less communication and friction in peer relationships and low interaction with the elderly. This indicates a rupture in the generational transmission of the culture of play and a decline in the capacity for play. The audience was invited to participate in a demonstration of how playing with toys can restore the lost capacity for play.

becomes problematic. The participants working in early childhood education actively sought advice on how to deal with children displaying such tendencies.

All four lectures were filled to capacity with participants who had come from all over China. After each session, there were so many questions that not all could be answered. This showed that the problems of children transcend difference in educational systems. The success of the program gives us all high motivation to continue such efforts into the future.

Child Raising and Child-raising Empowerment

Tokie Anme

"Empowerment" refers to the maximizing of a person's inherent capacities and abilities to their fullest and most vital expression. The lecture was accompanied by an explanation and demonstration of methods that empower both the child and caregiver. The audience asked many questions on how this approach could be applied to the child raising environment in China.



Children's Social Development and Deficits

Yoichi Sakahihara

This lecture explained the nature of developmental disorders, which occur when the development of emotions in young children and that of their superior capacity for learning

