The Fifth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia

The Child Science of Emotion

- ◆November 2 and 3, 2009
- ◆East China Normal University, Shanghai, China



Speakers and Presenters:

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

Jiaxiong Zhu (Professor, East China Normal University)

Tomio Watanabe (Professor, Okayama Prefectural University)

Toshiya Yamamoto (Professor, Waseda University)

Yuehua Shen (Doctor, Shanghai International Peace Maternal and Child Health Hospital)

Nianli Zhou (Associate Professor, East China Normal University)

Aihua Hua (Associate Professor, East China Normal University)

Masako Tanimura (Head, Department of Maternal and Child Health, Research Institute, National Center for Child Health and Development)

* In order of presentation; titles and affiliations as of November 2009

This program featured eight lectures on the latest research in China and Japan and the Good Toy Exhibition where visitors could actually play with toys. The venue was filled to capacity with 200 in attendance.

Day 1

Why have Human Beings Evolved a Mind?

- Considerations on the Triune Theory of the Brain

Noboru Kobayashi

From the perspective of human evolution and the triune brain theory, why have human beings evolved a mind? As the basis for the rational brain, the programs of instinct and the emotional brain are important to child development. Positive emotions and joy are critical in activating the programs of intelligence and reason.

Research and Practice in Early Mental Health Education in China

Jiaxiong Zhu

This report was a study of a mental health education program in kindergartens in Shanghai. Results indicate that such programs can effectively enhance children's communication skills and problem-solving ability.

Human-Entrained Embodied Interaction and Communication

Tomio Watanabe

Professor Watanabe introduced E-COSMIC, a human-entrained communication system. Building on his discoveries over two decades ago that infants respond to rhythm even when before they understand language, this project is part of his ongoing work on robots capable of human communication.

Cultural Comparison between Japan and China Regarding Behavior Related to Possession

- When do children become "Chinese"?

Toshiya Yamamoto

After watching the Chinese film "Not One Less" by Zhang Yimou, Chinese and Japanese university students voiced different views on ownership, ethics and communication. Research shows that a difference in views on ownership can be noted from age two.





Baby Massage and Attachment Research

Yuehua Shen

This report on the relation between body massage and attachment indicates that massage can be an effective means for babies to develop the ability to control and adjust emotions.

Parents' Expectations and Child Development

- Survey report of 3,000 children from 11 cities in China

Nianli Zhou

Parental awareness is shifting from a sole preoccupation with scholastic achievement to concern for developing social skills, leadership, cognitive ability, and independence. Regional differences are also indicated.

Day 2

Children's Play from the Perspective of Education

Aihua Hua

Recent education reforms in China include "play" in the kindergarten curriculum, stressing its educational importance. Noting that "play for educational purposes" and "play" are different, this presentation examined the meaning of genuine play and its role in education.

Infants are interested in humans

- Analysis of infants' behavior toward television

Masako Tanimura

This presentation was based on a study of infants from 3 to 24 months in 1987 and their reaction to TV. Given the high interest in both China and Japan in the influence of the mass media on infants, it drew many questions from the audience.

