

New Developments to 2009

FY2008 was a great year for growth in our Japanese-, English-, and Chinese-language websites. Access to our Chinese website increased remarkably. One reason was improved website content and the success of our real-world activities, namely, the East Asia Child Science Exchange Program. Also significant were the conferences held in April 2008 at Ochanomizu University, Tokyo, and again from the end of October to the beginning of November 2008 at Hangzhou College of Preschool Teacher Education, Zhejiang Normal University in Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang Province.

China is the source of Japanese culture and we share a writing system of Chinese characters. Whether we were conscious of

this or not, it made mutual understanding easier and contributed to the successful conference. And perhaps beyond this, we all expressed a shared gentle and caring attitude toward children that enriched our discussions and made them more meaningful.

CRN, building on our achievements over the past 12 years since our founding, is ready for further challenges in 2009. This means upgrading website content and reaching out internationally with Child Science to make the twenty-first century truly the "Century of the Child."



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Noboru Kobayashi

Director
Child Research Net (CRN)

Third East Asia Child Science Conference Report

The Third East Asia Child Science Conference was held in Hangzhou, China in October, 2008. See report on page 2.

What is the East Asia Child Science Exchange Program?

In November 2007, the East Asia Child Science Exchange Program was inaugurated in Shanghai, China and the first conference was held at Changsha Normal College in Changsha. In April 2008, the second conference took place at Ochanomizu University in Tokyo. Reports can be accessed on the CRN website.



<http://www2.crn.or.jp/blog/event/03/0306/>

Objectives

The program promotes the perspectives of Child Science on a global scale through academic exchange between universities and schools in East Asia. Its particular focus is child-rearing, child care, and early childhood education with a view to solving the problems of children and improving the environment in which they live.

Organizers Child Research Net (CRN), East China Normal University

Sponsors Benesse Corporation, Benesse Institute for the Child Sciences and Parenting

What is Child Research Net(CRN)?

- CRN is an internet-based
- research institute for
- Kodomogaku or Child Science,
- the interdisciplinary study of
- children. Through the Internet,
- symposia, lectures, playshops
- and other activities, we bring
- together scientists, scholars,
- educators and other
- professionals from around the
- world to think about children's
- issues.

●Third Conference Report

October 31 and November 1, 2008; Hangzhou College of Preschool Teacher Education, Zhejiang Normal University, Hangzhou, China

●Theme

What can adults do to realize Child-Caring Design (CCD) that considers children and their needs?

●Presenters

Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, Director, CRN, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo; Professor Jiaxiang Zhu, East China Normal University; Professor Jinliang Qin, Dean, Hangzhou College of Preschool Teacher Education, Zhejiang Normal University; Professor Nobuko Uchida, Vice-President, Ochanomizu University; Professor Yoichi Sakakihara, Ochanomizu University; Professor Genyue Fu, College of Education, Zhejiang Normal University; Professor Shufeng Dai, Pediatrics, Peking University First Hospital; Professor Zhenyu Wang, East China Normal University * In order of presentation

The Third East Asia Child Science Conference focused on "What can adults do to realize Child-Caring Design (CCD) that considers children and their needs?" Educators, physicians, and other specialists representing a variety of child-related fields in Japan and China gathered to present their research and exchange views. The two-day conference was attended by over 500 people, mainly students of Zhejiang Normal University and educators working on children's issues from the region.

Day 1 Keynote Address, October 31, 2008

●Child-Caring Design (CCD)



Noboru Kobayashi
Director, CRN

The keynote address emphasized the necessity of Child-Caring Design. Because children are always at risk in our adult-centered society, our living environment needs to be designed from the perspective of child welfare. Child-Caring Design considers not only the daily life of children, but toys, educational materials, schools, educational systems and even our cities. The knowledge and insights of Child Science, based on neuroscience, can play an important role in realizing good Child-Caring Design (CCD).

●The World through a Child's Eyes



Jiaxiang Zhu
Professor

How can adults adopt a child-centered approach and look at issues from a child's eyes? We have to be both scientific and child-centered. This presentation discussed our capacity and capability to do this from broad philosophical and anthropological perspectives.

●Effective and Sensitive Kindergarten Environments



Jinliang Qin
Professor

Creating kindergarten environments that effectively encourage child development requires understanding children's interests and their likes. It means listening to what they are really saying and grasping how they perceive the world. This presentation introduced a case study conducted at the kindergarten of Zhejiang Normal University on environmental, spatial, and curriculum design based on children's likes and dislikes.

Day 2 Presentations, November 1, 2008

●Are Children's "Fabrications" Really Lies?



Nobuko Uchida
Professor

This presentation considered the cognitive mechanism underlying children's fabrications and asked whether they involve deceit. Most occur when the child, in process of thinking of an incident, condenses the logic in such a way that it changes the entire account. Children do not tell lies or deceive adults when they are validated by their parents and brought up with love from two years of age when ego development occurs.

●Developmental Disorders and Child Care



Yoichi Sakakihara
Professor

In the case of group childcare, teachers and caregivers need a good understanding of developmental disorders in those called "problem children." This presentation explained the concept of the developmental disorder, how to handle children with developmental disorders, and good Child-Caring Design (CCD) for these children.

On the Chinese side, Professor Genyue Fu lectured on developmental psychology and the emergence of flattery behavior in children, and Professor Shufeng Dai, a specialist in neonatal medicine, presented the results of research on developmental disorders in China.

●The Emergence of Flattery Behavior in Young Children



Genyue Fu
Professor

Research indicates children begin displaying flattery behavior from the age of four. In one study, when children were asked to rate an artwork, all the three-year olds gave the same score to the work regardless of whether the child who made it was present or not. In contrast, four-year olds gave a higher score when the creator was present.

●Developmental Disorders and the Educational Environment at Home



Shufeng Dai
Professor

The educational environment at home is a key factor in cognitive developmental disorders, leading to psychological behavior and scholastic failure. Specific environments are proposed for three stages of development (early pregnancy, fetal, the critical period between birth and the age of three).

The symposium ended with presentations by scholars from both countries on "The World of Children and the World of Adults." First, a video of children in Chinese kindergartens was shown, followed by discussion of their activities and what they were imagining while listening to music, for example. With reference to the data, the discussion indicated a clear gap between the views of adults and children. It was a major step forward in Japan-China comparative research and academic exchange.

Japan Good Toy Exhibition

The Japan Good Toy Exhibition, curated by Chihiro Tada, Director, Tokyo Toy Museum, was held during the symposium. On display were toys in Japan selected from those that had received



the Best Toy Award for promoting imagination, curiosity about nature and science, artistic and musical sensitivity, physical exercise, and communication, which are thought to be essential for emotional and physical growth. Visitors, who included researchers and practitioners in child-related fields in China, viewed the exhibit with great interest.

In collaboration with Tokyo Toy Museum



The Third East Asia Child Science Conference offered a truly intellectually challenging academic program. This promoted a high level of exchange that transcended the language barrier. It was a step forward for Child Science in East Asia. We look forward to your support for CRN activities in realizing happy lives for children.

Forthcoming Publications

Third East Asia Child Science Program Report (March 2009)

This report is full of information on Child Science, including programs of the last two years and abstracts of three conferences in East Asia.



Upcoming at CRN

Regular updates on Japanese, English, and Chinese websites

New information on each website every two weeks.

Register to receive the free monthly magazine by e-mail. Available in three languages.

The Fourth East Asia Child Science Conference

The Fourth East Asia Child Science Conference is scheduled to be held on May 20 and 21, 2009, at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China.

Conference and Symposia Reports

Japanese Society of Child Science —2008 Report

[Day 1] Sept. 27 (Sat) 10:00-17:30

■ "The Significance of Bullying" Sumio Hamada, Professor, Nara Women's University, Chair, Conference Promotion Committee

■ Keynote Address "Bullying from a Social Perspective" Kiyokazu Washida, President, Osaka University

■ Symposium I "Children's Peer Relationships as the Background of Bullying"

Organizers: Takeshi Asao, Professor, Nara Women's University; Yoko Ikeda, research student, Nara Women's University, Adjunct Instructor, Kinki University; Asao Naito, Associate Professor, Meiji University; Yukiko Hijikata, former elementary schoolteacher, Graduate School of Nara Women's University; Mariko Furukawa, teacher, Ando Elementary School; and high school students and others

[Day 2] Sept. 28 (Sun) 10:00-16:30

■ Special Lecture "What Children Can't Say, but Want Us to Know" Yoshiharu Okochi, Bullying Counseling, Nishio, Aichi Prefecture

■ Symposium II "Redefining Bullying"

Organizers: Sumio Hamada; Takeshi Ito, Professor, Musashino Art University; Takayoshi Doi, Professor, University of Tsukuba; Asao Naito

In his Keynote Address, Kiyokazu Washida noted that bullying can be difficult to prevent because the group formation is not based on a logic that is capable of resisting the logic of exclusion. He stated that sensationalistic media coverage actually promotes bullying and recommended that the local community get actively involved to "mediate" and settle bullying problems.



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Three CRN websites (Japanese, English, Chinese)

Japanese-language website

Renewed in March 2008, this website invites discussion and contributions on new subjects from both specialists and a variety of practitioners, hands-on professionals both in Japan and abroad, and people everywhere who are busy raising their children. Here are some of the features which have been particularly well received.



**[Research Lab]
Social Skills Training (SST) Research**

Social Skill Training (SST) for children with mild developmental disorders or problems adjusting to group environments helps them learn social skills. The first article is an interview with a music therapist.

**[Research Lab]
Children and Media Research**

Children use media in ways that adults could never imagine. That's why the CRN Children and Media Research Lab studies children and the media from the perspective of children playing. The latest article "The Net Generation in a Transitional Era of Net Culture" addresses a current topic: rules of internet use for children.

**[Dr. Kobayashi's Library]
The Brain and Education (new)**

Dr. Noboru Kobayashi and neuroscientist Dr. Hirota Kataoka, Researcher, Benesse Educational Research and Development Center, Benesse Corporation, review articles from "Mind, Brain, and Education (MBE)", the journal of the International Mind, Brain and Education Society. One of the articles introduces cases of the remarkable development of children living with half of their brains.

**[Research Papers & Reports]
Education for the Net Generation**

Reports on educating children in our network society. In the aftermath of a murderous rampage in Akihabara, an article, "Akihabara - Let's Foster Resilience," calls for resilience education at home and at school that will give children and young people the skills to cope with adversity.

**[Research Papers & Reports]
The Everyday Pediatrician: Neuroscience for Child-rearing (new series)**

"Neuroscience for Child-rearing" written by a pediatrician and father of four children considers child rearing from the perspectives

of neuroscience. Posted monthly on the 10th, 20th, and 30th.

**[Issues]
Drinking Alcohol during Pregnancy and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)**

Specialists discuss FAS and its effect on child-rearing, child care, and education. The latest article, "Drinking Alcohol during Pregnancy and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)," estimates that over 10% of pregnant women drink and points out the danger of alcohol consumption.

English-language Website



[Monthly Articles on Children]

Articles and reports by CRN staff, researchers, and child-care professionals. An article, "lessons from a naturalist," about British broadcaster and naturalist David Attenborough underscores the importance of encouraging children to discover the world for themselves.

[Research Papers]

Database of papers from researchers around the world.

In "Research on English Performances and Motivation at Osaka Jogakuin College," Professor Steve McCarthy analyzes the four-year curriculum of English education at this college in which students select and research a topic for presentation in an English contest.

"Continuity of Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Care through MCH Handbook for Ensuring the Quality of Life" introduced the Sixth International Conference on Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook held in November 2008 in Tokyo. The MCH handbook in use in Japan has been widely adopted in other countries where it has been revised to adapt to the local culture and socio-economic circumstances.

[Presentations]

Reports on symposia and seminars by CRN and others related to Child Science. "Educational Reform and Child Raising in Finland" is a report on a symposium at the International Center for Child Studies, Konan Women's University in Kobe, Japan. Researchers from Finland and the United

States gave presentations on early childhood education and care in their countries.

[Teen's Photo Project]

Photos and essays contributed by teenagers. See what they have to say!

Chinese-language website

Introduces information on child-rearing, child care and education in Japan and other countries, CRN's activities, and original efforts in China to those interested in children's issues in China. Here are some of the webpages that attracted particular interest in 2008.



[Studies in Preschool Education]

This publication, one of the most prestigious journals in China on preschool education, provides information on the latest research on early childhood education, preschool art and mathematics education.

[Child Health]

Professor Fang Wan of Beijing Normal University introduces selected topics related to child development with advice on child-raising in the context of incidents and circumstances affecting children in China today. Recent topics ask why children cry with their eyes closed at night and how to provide emotional care for children in times of disaster.

[Early Childhood Education in Japan] (new)

Extensive materials on early childhood education in Japan include the history and current state of kindergartens and day care, children's artwork, experiences of a Chinese researcher and his child with Japanese day care.

[Research on Non-Formal Pre-school Education]

Research often tends to focus on urban children and neglect those in rural areas. In China, as large numbers of migrant rural workers move to the city to find work, the education of their children has become a major social problem. Professor Yan Zhang, Beijing Normal University, gives a detailed account of programs to support these children who cannot officially attend nursery school.