

What is Child Research Net (CRN)?

Child Research Net (CRN) is an Internet-based child research institute comprising a vast network of professionals, researchers and educators who care about children's issues. Our website in three languages, Japanese, English, and Chinese, introduces wide-ranging research from medicine and brain science to education, developmental psychology and sociology. In addition, our international and national research activities address important topics for children. We look forward to your participation.

What is Child Science?

Solving the issues that affect children today requires research that transcends the usual disciplinary boundaries. Child Science, based on this view of Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, CRN Honorary Director, takes such an interdisciplinary approach. Children are born as biological beings and grow into social human beings through the interaction of parents, home environments, and society. Child Science is a human science that integrates natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

CRN provides



- Information on children's issues from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Country-specific information on child-raising and education
- Data and survey results on children and education in Japan

History of CRN

(Fiscal Year)

- 1996 • Launches Japanese and English language websites
 - Symposium "Children in Today's Multi-Media Society"
- 1997 • Symposium "Children's Use of Multi-Media to Make Friends"
 - Lectures by Dr. Jane Goodall and Dr. Jay Belsky
- 1998 • International Symposium "Evolution of Child Development in the Multi-Media Environment"
 - CRN website receives Silver Prize, Web Design Award
- 2000 • CRN International Symposium "The Child Care Paradox: Choices in Children's Development"
- 2001 • Opens Nagayama Chi-kichi as a research center (-2002)
- 2002 • CRN training seminar for child care providers "Thinking about the Quality of Day Care"
 - Establishes Research Group on Child Science, which later becomes Japanese Society of Child Science
- 2005 • Launches Chinese language (simplified) website
- 2007 • First Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia (Shanghai, Changsha) (Held annually in Tokyo, China, Taipei, etc. featuring "Approaches of Child Science to Child Growth and Development and Living Environment," "Neuroscience," "Coordinating Preschool and Elementary School," "the Quality of ECEC," "Playful Pedagogy" and so forth.)
 - CRN International Symposium for 10th Anniversary of CRN
- 2012 • Launches Chinese language (traditional) website
 - First and Second Research Conferences on "Radiation and Children"
- 2013 • Dr. Yoichi Sakakihara assumes Director, Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, former Director, assumes Honorary Director
 - First ECEC Research Conference "The Challenges and Prospects of ECEC in Japan"
 - Second ECEC Research Conference "Playful Pedagogy --Child Science of Play and Learning"
 - Third ECEC Research Conference "Child Care that Improves the Quality of Play"
- 2014 • Mini-Symposium on Doula "Aiming for a Society that Encourages a Positive Experience of Birth and Child-rearing: Discussion Starting with the Concept of Doula"
 - Tenth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia "Learning through Play --From a Neuroscientific Perspective"
 - Fourth ECEC Research Conference "ECEC in Japan and around the World: Seeking Learning in Play"
- 2015 • Fifth ECEC Research Conference "ECEC in Japan and around the World (2): The Strength of ECEC in Japan from a Comparison of ECEC in Four Countries"

CRN Profile

Organization

- Director ● Yoichi Sakakihara (Vice President, Ochanomizu University)
- Honorary Director ● Noboru Kobayashi (Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo, President Emeritus, National Children's Hospital)
- Special Advisor ● Takemochi Ishii (Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo)
- Coordinators ● Aiping Liu, Junko Ogawa (BERD)
- Researchers ● Tomohiro Kawamura, Rieko (Kishi) Fukuzawa, Yuko Osada

Location

c/o Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD)
1-34, Ochiai, Tama-shi, Tokyo 206-0033, Japan

Child Research Net is operated with the support of BERD.

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Welcome to **CHILD RESEARCH NET**
We are a non-profit organization in Japan devoted to thinking with and about children

Children are our future



Introducing
Child Research Net
-Research Institute for Child Science-



<http://www.childresearch.net/>



Greetings

Child Science as a science based on evidence

Child Science needs to be interdisciplinary, and secondly, aims to be a science based on facts and evidence. Our goal is to bring together academics and practices related to children from a clear and neutral perspective. CRN works to realize these aims not only in Japan, but would also like to provide an international discussion arena where they can be shared and developed globally. We hope you will find CRN helpful.



Director, CRN,
M.D., Ph.D., Vice President, Ochanomizu University.
Born in 1951, specializes in pediatric neurology and developmental disorders.

柳原洋一

Yoichi Sakakihara

The Necessity of Interdisciplinary Child Science

Today, more than ever, we need to discuss from an interdisciplinary perspective of Child Science how to prevent and solve issues that children face. Since the causes are diverse, human sciences have much to offer in solving them.

Supported by principles of systems informatics, brain science, and child ecology, researchers in different fields, professionals, and guardians should exchange their views to solve them. CRN is happy and proud to contribute to it.



Honorary Director, CRN,
M.D., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo,
President Emeritus of the National Children's Hospital.
Born in 1927.

小林登

Noboru Kobayashi

Research on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

CRN has been engaged in research in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) since 2013, with a primary focus on the situation in Japan. Early childhood education and care has an enormous effect on later schooling and learning, and as we learn how important it is to economic success on a national scale, interest has grown worldwide.

Early childhood education and care in Japan has undergone much reform, but there are still issues that remain. Are the features of ECEC in Japan well-understood after being reviewed and compared with ECEC in other countries? What can be done to promote wider recognition?

In addition to shedding light on ECEC-related concerns within Japan through international comparisons, CRN hosts the ECEC Research Conference which provides a forum for parents, teachers, and researchers to meet and discuss specific solutions. As of 2015, five conferences have been held.

- The Challenges and Prospects of ECEC in Japan, June 2013
- Playful Pedagogy: Child Science of Play and Learning, October 2013
- Child Care that Improves the Quality of Play, February 2014

At the first two ECEC Research Conferences, researchers compared ECEC trends and case studies in Asia and Oceania with those in Japan and shared views on the importance of ensuring "quality" in ECEC and play that stimulates learning in early childhood.

Continuing the focus on play and learning, the third conference included discussions among researchers and workshops with teacher participation. Researchers shared their views on such topics as what teachers should consider when proposing material for play. Eight teachers representing public and private facilities as well as kindergartens, day care centers, and early childhood education and care centers came together to discuss topics in common and engage in dialogue.



CRN Activities

CRN researches issues that affect children. We share this knowledge and information by hosting symposia and conferences and communicate internationally through our trilingual website in Japanese, English, and Chinese. Here are some of our latest activities.

- ECEC in Japan and around the World: Seeking Learning in Play, February 2015
- ECEC in Japan and around the World (2): The Strength of ECEC in Japan from a Comparison of ECEC in Four Countries, October 2015

The fourth and fifth conferences were distinguished by a greater emphasis on comparative international studies. The fourth conference introduced actual practices of early childhood education and care in Reggio Emilia and Pistoia, Italy, New Zealand, and Shanghai, China. In the fifth conference, case studies from England, South Korea, the Netherlands, and Sweden were discussed in detail and compared with practices in Japan.



Furthermore, in addition to lectures by researchers, the fifth conference featured workshops open to all participants, which included parents, teachers, researchers, elementary and junior-high school teachers, and policymakers. Representing diverse positions and viewpoints, they discussed what Japan could learn from their countries and the strong points of Japan's early childhood education and care when compared internationally.

Reports on the research conferences are available online at CRN website.

CRN also makes available information on diverse approaches to child care and early childhood education as a way of supporting parents and teachers in Japan. Research reports, based on case studies, analyze specific ECEC methods and practices in countries around the world. Please have a read through.

ECEC around the World
<http://www.childresearch.net/projects/ecec/>



East Asia Child Science Exchange Program

This symposium, hosted by CRN, provides an occasion for researchers from Japan, China, Taiwan, and South Korea to examine child-related issues and possible solutions. At the Tenth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia in 2014, a total of 300 researchers from China, Taiwan, and Japan and kindergarten teachers in China gathered to discuss issues on the theme "Learning through Play --From a Neuroscientific Perspective." Reports on previous symposia and summaries of discussions can be accessed on the CRN website.



Website Features

.....● Projects ●.....
 ECEC around the World, Declining Birth Rate and Child-rearing in Japan, Brain & Education—diverse topics on children

.....● Papers & Essays ●.....
 Academic papers and reports by researchers and professionals

.....● Data ●.....
 Data on child-raising and education based on surveys of children and parents conducted by Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD), a supporting organization



Japanese

English



Chinese

CRN

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Websites in
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 and Chinese
 (simplified and traditional)

