

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** • CRN International Symposium for 10th Anniversary of CRN
 - First Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia (Shanghai, Changsha) (Held 10 times from 2007 to 2014 in Tokyo, China, Taipei, etc. featuring "Approaches of Child Science to Child Growth and Development and Living Environment," "Neuroscience and Children," "Coordinating Preschool and Elementary School," "the Quality of ECEC," "Playful Pedagogy" and so forth.)
- 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"
 - 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"
- 2016** • Launches the "Child Research Network Asia (CRNA)"
 - CRNA First International Conference "Child Caring Design —Grand Design of Children's Development and Growing Environment" (Shanghai)
- 2017** • CRNA Second International Conference "Nurturing Social and Emotional Skills—Media, Play, and Children with Special Needs" (Tokyo)
 - Releases "ECEC Research Report", "ECEC Matrix of Countries and Regions"
- 2018** • Online Symposium "Something's Strange: Special Needs Education in Japan"

CRN Profile

Organization

- Director ● Yoichi Sakakihara (Professor Emeritus, 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)
- Researchers ● Aiping Liu, Junko Ogawa

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.



Benesse

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Children are our future



Introducing
Child Research Net
-Research Institute for Child Science-



<https://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., Professor Emeritus, Ochanomizu University.
Specializes in pediatric neurology and developmental disorders.

神原 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.

小林 登

Noboru Kobayashi



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.

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. Up until now, 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
- 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

Reports on the research conferences are available online at the CRN website. Furthermore, the outcome of the five research conferences have been organized and compiled as a research report.



Child Research Network Asia (CRNA)

CRN held ten conferences from 2007 to 2014 under the “Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia”, providing an arena of discussion to researchers involved in Child Science in East Asia, such as Japan, Mainland China, Taiwan, and South Korea. In 2016, we have launched the “Child Research Network Asia (CRNA),” in search for solutions to issues involving children in Asia. Various activities have been and will be carried out through CRNA.



Child Caring Design

For the Well-Being of Children in Asia

Philosophy

Solve children's issues in Asia initiating from the standpoint of "Child Science."

Build a network of connections based in Asia, through which Child Science specialists from each country can hold discussions.

Targeted Countries and Regions

Japan, Mainland China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand

Activities

- ① Host "International Conferences" on issues involving children in Asia (planned annually).
- ② Report current situation and issues of targeted Asian countries based on the topics discussed in the above "International Conferences" (multilingual publication).

Child Research Network Asia held two International Conferences in collaboration with Board Members from Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand. Detailed reports on the International Conferences are available online at the CRN website.



- CRNA First International Conference “Child Caring Design—Grand Design of Children's Development and Growing Environment” (March 2017, Shanghai)
- CRNA Second International Conference “Nurturing Social and Emotional Skills—Media, Play, and Children with Special Needs” (March 2018, Tokyo)

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

Main Project

CRN 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

<https://www.childresearch.net/projects/ecec/>



Welcome to Child Research Net!

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

Websites in Japanese, English, and Chinese (simplified and traditional)

English



Japanese



Chinese

