

Workshops/Lectures:

Our Institute organizes evidence and findings on social care and disseminates them to relevant individuals, institutions, and society as a whole. We encourage collaboration, and provide information useful for network building and human resource development. We hold and co-sponsor training sessions and lectures. We are planning lectures and workshops for professionals and the general public, and in 2022, we held workshops on subjects such as:

- Report on the Research Institute Project (this discussed the Institute's past efforts and was distributed on-demand on the Institute's website)
- Trial Training Exchange (Training exchanges between selected local authorities.)
- Training Sessions for Child Guidance Centers and Foster Carers Personnel
- Training and advice for Foster Carers
- Study sessions on the work of the U.S. Kemp Center

In particular, the 'Report on the Research Institute's project' aims to make the Institute's past activities widely known and is available as an on-demand video on the Institute's website.

On demand video seminars:

To educate and equip professionals with the information they need, our institute publishes lectures on a wide range of topics related to children's social care, from instructors from Japan and overseas. These are available on our website (Applications are required for viewing videos). We deliver lectures on what to expect from Child Guidance Centers in the future, the foster care system, support for foster carers, and Ofsted, a government institution in the UK that evaluates children's social care providers. We plan to continue to provide a wide range of content, including specialist knowledge and information on overseas initiatives, and encourage anyone interested to make use of these resources. Please note that viewing is for personal study purposes only, and unauthorized reproduction, use, or copying is prohibited.



For more information on the on-demand video seminars, please read the code on the left.

OUTLINE

Name: Waseda University
Research Institute for Children's Social Care

Established : 2020

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- Approximately 20 minutes walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Yamanote Line



Homepage: <https://waseda-ricsc.jp/>



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We don't just work for children,
we strive to connect with children,



With All Children

Waseda University

Research Institute for
Children's Social Care

早稲田大学
社会的養育研究所



Greetings from the Director



Director: Kazuhiro Kamikado
(Professor, Faculty of Human Sciences, Waseda University)

In a UNICEF survey of child well-being amongst developed countries, Japanese children ranked first in terms of physical health, but almost last (37th) in terms of mental well-being. Despite the efforts made to protect children, incidences of child abuse notifications in Japan continue to increase, and the number of child suicides reaches a record high every year. Meanwhile, outcomes for young carers and those affected by issues such as child poverty have not improved, and the number of children unable to attend school has not decreased. While progress has been made in creating policies for children, these figures show that there is a long way to go before Japan is truly working with children and empathizing with children's experiences. Children placed in social care after being removed from their parents' care are amongst the most vulnerable.

The 2016 amendment to the revision of Japan's Child Welfare Law enshrined the rights of children and the principle of prioritization of family-based care for the first time. Currently, we are at a critical period of change in building a new children's social care system.

Our mission is to improve outcomes for all children, with a particular focus on children in social care. We continue to focus on empirical research and evaluation, practical support, and suggestions for policy formulation.

In order to ensure the best interests of children, we must listen to their voices to see what kind of results our initiatives have delivered, and reflect this learning in practices and systems. The Research Institute for Children's Social Care endeavors to go beyond working for children, and always considers ways to connect together with children in order to create new and needed change.

PROJECT
01

Collaboration with the trial projects of local authorities on the family-based care promotion

Our institute provides training and consultation related to promoting family-based care, conducts opportunities for interaction and information sharing, and evaluates and verifies the results of the projects to Oita Prefecture, Yamanashi Prefecture, and Fukuoka City. These local authorities have signed an agreement as part of a joint project with the Nippon Foundation that aims for “all children to grow up in safe, secure, and warm homes where their rights are respected.”

There are many children who are in need of someone to live with in Japan, not only those currently needing social care such as abused children, but also children currently residing with their families. We are supporting the creation of a localized social care system that responds to these needs in accordance with the circumstances of each locality. In addition, we will analyze the results and issues obtained through this initiative and accumulate the evidence. We collaborate to realize children’s social care that guarantees the best interests of children throughout the country.

PROJECT
02

Research on the implementation of the Children’s Social Care Promotion Plan of prefectures (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare/Children and Families Agency)

Prefectures have been formulating their Children’s Social Care Promotion Plan, based on the revision of Japan’s Child Welfare Law of 2016 and the ‘New Children’s Social Care Vision’ of 2017. This is a specific step prefecture are implementing in order to politically achieve the principle of prioritizing family child rearing and realizing the best interests of children. While implementation based on the plan will begin in FY2020, the plan period is 10 years, and specific reviews are planned for FY2024.

Our research institute is commissioned by the Children and Families Agency to carry out research on children and child care (we were commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare up until FY2022). According to the research projects that were presented by the Research Institute for Children and Families by year, we also convene committees with the participation of experts, conduct interviews and surveys, and hold events that enable prefectural workers involved in the New Children’s Social Care Vision trials to connect with one another.

In FY2023, we will work on formulating the next version of the Children’s Social Care Promotion Plan. We will calculate the expected number of social resources and services in relation to the actual conditions of the region. Furthermore, we will evaluate and verify the status of each municipality’s efforts based on the current plan, and conduct meetings to exchange opinions for the development of the next plan.

PROJECT
03

Youth Conference

The Youth Conference was established in FY2020, and is made up of young people (care leavers) who have experience of the looked-after care system. Researchers meet regularly with young people to hear their thoughts and opinions about research. Some of our meetings include ‘Reflections on Youth Proposals’, where members of the Youth Conference work with researchers to deepen their understanding of key issues. We encourage local authorities to listen to the youth’s voices of those with experience of the care system. We also formulate recommendations to improve understanding and support for care leavers.

PROJECT
04

Review Committee on Child and Family Social Worker Qualifications

A Child and Family Welfare Certification (Child and Family Social Worker) will be introduced in FY2024, followed by a review of the qualification system two years later. This committee examines the contents of a wide range of professional qualifications, while looking at specific qualifications from both Japan and abroad. In FY2022, we considered current social work practices and their historical context in France and the UK. While continuing to keep an eye on best practice overseas, we also look towards professional training in related fields within Japan.

“Foster carer support”

PROJECT
05

Research on fostering assessment best practice

Foster carer applicants must be assessed appropriately in order to protect the best interests of the child, and to ensure good enough matching and care. However, there are currently no common national standards or indicators for assessment. We are developing a fostering assessment form that can be provided on-site, and are also considering training for professionals to encourage its appropriate and effective use.

PROJECT
06

Development and implementation of infant foster carer support training and programs

This project is creating and implementing a comprehensive training program for infant foster carers and baby home staff to learn how to observe infants and young children in social care and support their families. Specifically, we are creating foster care training videos, developing an infant foster carer support program based on the Watch Me Play! program developed at Tavistock Portman NHS in the UK, and considering evaluation methods.

PROJECT
07

Research on evaluation methods of fostering institutions

The expansion of foster care will result in the establishment of an increasing number of fostering agencies. These agencies will be required to protect the rights of children in their care and conduct evaluations to ensure high quality foster care. The purpose of this research is to develop an evaluation method for Japanese foster care agencies in order to improve the quality of provision and protect the rights of children growing up in care.

PROJECT
08

Foster carer pre-certification training : Japanese edition of project of The Skills To Foster

In this project, we established a committee of specialists in FY2020 to create a Japanese language edition of The Skills to Foster, which is a training resource widely used in the UK as pre-certification training for foster carer candidates. We have completed a supervised translation of the Leader’s Guide for supporters and the Handbook for participants, and are making preparations for publication in FY2023 or later. We are currently considering the most effective ways to implement the program.

“Family Support”

PROJECT
09

Research on support for families in mother and child living facilities

From the perspective of permanency planning for children, there has been an increasing emphasis on the importance of strengthening parent-child relationships in order to ensure that families can remain together. Mother and child living facilities are the only social care facilities that do not separate mothers and children, and provide social work that supports family rearing. This survey research is being carried out as a joint project with the National Association of Mother and Child Life Support Facilities, with the aim of understanding the actual state of social work related to strengthening parent-child relationships.

PROJECT
10

Promoting the use of caregiver support programs

As the number of reported cases of abuse continues to increase, the government has recognized there is a lack of preventive measures and family support available. In response, it has put systems in place for local authorities. Therapeutic and educational support is needed for parents to help them manage anxiety and distress over how to raise their children, and to help improve parent-child relationships. This project raises awareness of various child support programs by creating networks between practitioners, researchers, and local authorities officials.

“Information provision and sharing”

PROJECT
11

Training sessions/lectures

We organize the evidence and findings related to the children’s social care, and share these with relevant parties, institutions, and society as a whole; all in the spirit of collaboration. We hold and co-sponsor lectures, which is needed to provide resources useful for network building and human resource development.

PROJECT
12

On-demand video seminar

To help equip professionals to respond to various situations within children’s social care, our institute publishes lectures on a wide range of topics by various instructors from Japan and abroad as on-demand video seminars on our website (Applications are required for viewing videos).

PROJECT
13

Translation and introduction of foreign literature

We translate advanced research papers, reports, and books from overseas that have not been introduced in Japanese, with the aim of accumulating and providing evidence and information regarding best practice in the children’s social care. Papers and reports are available on the Institute’s website.