

# Testing the effectiveness of comprehensive early childhood development (CECD) services in rural areas of China

<b>Submission date</b> 06/05/2019	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 17/05/2019	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 03/06/2021	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

A growing number of studies point to the importance of early childhood intervention for fulfilling childhood development potential. The critical period before age three is considered to be a crucial “window”, during which interventions designed to improve child development can have significant and lasting effects, even into adulthood. Moreover, intervention during this time period is considered to be the most cost-effective from a policy perspective.

This project seeks to explore the most cost-effective interventions and associated implementation protocols to help to young babies and children living in rural China to reach their full developmental potentials. To do so, we propose to conduct a large-scale randomized controlled trial to measure the impact of a Comprehensive Early Childhood Development (CECD) intervention on parental knowledge, attitude, behavior and, most importantly, on child development outcomes.

### Who can participate?

Children aged between 6 and 24 months from the 50 villages involved can participate.

### What does the study involve?

We plan to work together with social institutions and local government, empower them with training sessions so that they can serve as competent CECD service providers (i.e. parenting instructors), and make up for the commercial and social deficiencies in rural areas. The parenting instructors will visit treatment group during weekly home visiting, demonstrate and guide these parents (caregivers) how to play and interact with the babies to help the development of cognition, language, motor and social emotion by using the week-by-week parenting curriculum and toys (or picture books).

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Participants may benefit from improved neurodevelopment and quality of life. There will be no risk for participants to be part of this trial, according to our study design.

Where is the study run from?

1. China Center for Agricultural Policy - Peking University
2. School of Economics and Management - Jiangxi Agricultural University

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

January 2018 to October 2018

Who is funding the study?

China Center for Agricultural Policy - Peking University, China.

Who is the main contact?

Prof. Renfu Luo,  
luorf.ccap@pku.edu.cn

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

Prof Renfu Luo

### Contact details

Room 409  
Wangkezhen Building  
Peking University  
No.5 Yiheyuan Road  
Haidian District  
Beijing  
China  
100871  
0086-010-62760156  
luorf.ccap@pku.edu.cn

## Additional identifiers

### EudraCT/CTIS number

Nil known

### IRAS number

### ClinicalTrials.gov number

Nil known

### Secondary identifying numbers

AEARCTR-0003316

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Cluster Randomised Trial of the effectiveness of comprehensive early childhood development (CECD) services in rural areas, China

### **Study objectives**

Early childhood stimulation and improved parental practices will have positive effects on a child's cognitive, language, motor and socioemotional development.

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 04/07/2017, Peking University Institutional Review Board (PUIRB) (Room 501, Yifu Building, Peking University Medical Department, No. 38 College Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China; llwyh@bjmu.edu.cn; +86 010-82805751), ref: IRB00001052-17056

### **Study design**

Cluster randomized controlled trial

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Secondary study design**

Cluster randomised trial

### **Study setting(s)**

Community

### **Study type(s)**

Quality of life

### **Participant information sheet**

No participant information sheet available

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Child development

### **Interventions**

We will implement the intervention in each of our 50 treatment villages. During the weekly home visits, the parenting instructors will demonstrate and guide the parents (caregivers) how to play and interact with the babies to help the development of cognition, language, motor and social emotion by using the week-by-week parenting curriculum and toys (or picture books). After that, the parenting instructors will tell the parents (caregivers) nutrition and health knowledge for the child at that age. And finally the parenting instructors will give the curriculum and toys of the week to the family and collect the curriculum and toys used last week.

The initial phase of the trial has two data collection rounds: a baseline survey (completed) and one at endline. These data include detailed family characteristics and parental characteristics that will allow us to understand the heterogeneity of outcomes for different groups, plus a ten-minute video for each of our treatment household recording the interaction between the child and caregiver. We will videotape during both baseline and endline survey to observe subtle changes in terms of the quality of interaction as well as the child's performance.

## **Intervention Type**

Behavioural

## **Primary outcome measure**

1. Test scores of Caregiver Reported Early Childhood Development Instruments (CREDI) and Bayley Scales of Infant Development (BSID) at baseline and follow-up (50-weeks).
2. Number of children delayed in cognitive, language, motor and social-emotion development at follow-up (measured using the above tools)

## **Secondary outcome measures**

1. Changes in parenting practices and parental adjustment, assessed from reports of mothers using Parenting and Family Adjustment Scales (PAFAS) from baseline to follow-up.
2. Parental knowledge of normative infant development, assessed using Knowledge of Infant Development Inventory (KIDI) from baseline to follow-up.
3. Aspects of the quality and quantity of psychological stimulation and cognitive support available in the home environment, assessed using the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment Inventory (HOME) from baseline to follow-up.
4. Parenting Pressure measured by Parenting Depression Index (PD) from baseline to follow-up.

## **Overall study start date**

01/08/2018

## **Completion date**

31/12/2019

# **Eligibility**

## **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Children aged between 6 and 24 months
2. Able and willing to cooperate with the examination

## **Participant type(s)**

Healthy volunteer

## **Age group**

Child

## **Lower age limit**

6 Months

## **Upper age limit**

24 Months

## **Sex**

Both

## **Target number of participants**

Total sample size is 690 families with children who were in our desired age range (6-24 mo)

**Total final enrolment**

635

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Parents do not consent

**Date of first enrolment**

08/01/2018

**Date of final enrolment**

08/10/2018

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

China

**Study participating centre****China Center for Agricultural Policy - Peking University**

Wangkezhen Building

Peking University

No.5 Yiheyuan Road

Haidian District

Beijing

China

100871

**Study participating centre****School of Economics and Management - Jiangxi Agricultural University**

1101 Zhimin Avenue

Qingshanhu Economic and Technological Development Zone

Nanchang

Jiangxi

China

330045

**Sponsor information****Organisation**

UBS Optimus Foundation

**Sponsor details**

Room 1119  
Yinglan International Financial Center  
Financial Street 7th  
Xicheng District  
Beijing  
China  
100034  
+86 21 3866 8051  
joco.hu@ubs.com

**Sponsor type**

Charity

**Website**

<https://www.ubs.com/microsites/optimus-foundation/en.html>

**Organisation**

National Natural Science Foundation of China

**Sponsor details**

83 Shuangqing Road  
Haidian District  
Beijing  
China  
100085  
86-10-62327001  
bic@nsfc.gov.cn

**Sponsor type**

Research council

**Website**

<http://www.nsfc.gov.cn/>

**Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

University/education

**Funder Name**

China Center for Agricultural Policy, Peking University

**Results and Publications**

### Publication and dissemination plan

Planned publication in a high-impact peer-reviewed journal.

### Intention to publish date

31/12/2020

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

All data generated or analysed during this study will be included in the subsequent results publication

### IPD sharing plan summary

Other

### Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>		01/10/2020	03/06/2021	Yes	No