



Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD) has been conducting research in education since it was established as the Fukutake Education Research Institute in 1985. Although education research was not generally evidence-based at the time, since then, our research has covered over 400 subjects with the

cooperation of children, parents, and teachers and the guidance of leading researchers in Japan. The results, published on our home page, are now available for application in education and childrearing.

Today, however, we are inundated with data on education. How should we apply evidence to improve education, going beyond grasping the actual conditions? Realizing it was time to take the next step, we began a joint research project with the University of Tokyo on "The Everyday Life and Learning of Children." Based on this research and publications, we aim to create a platform for researchers and educators to discuss and deepen their studies. We will continue to innovate and make further social contributions.

Haruo Kimura, Deputy Manager

Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD)



What sort of skills will children need to thrive in an uncertain future?

There is no right answer to this question. As society evolves, the necessary skills change. Acquiring existing knowledge alone is not sufficient to overcome the challenges of a complex, diverse society. How then should education respond?

Again, there is no right answer, either.

At BERD, we believe in the importance of "life-long learning and self-renewal" for growth that looks to the future, not just tomorrow, but even beyond. Through our research from various perspectives, we would like to examine what is necessary to instill life-long learning practices from early childhood through college and adulthood, or how adults can provide support. Building on the results of our research, we would like to work with you to address these questions and solve issues that will improve education now and in the future.

Kazuyoshi Koizumi, Deputy Manager

Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD)

Information Planning Office

Today, the environment surrounding children, including education, is changing dramatically. What skills will children need in the future? How can adults help them acquire these skills? We study present and future trends that influence the home, school, and community, and examine possible solutions with experts from different fields related to childrearing, childcare, and education.

We provide the public with information on what the family, school and community can do individually or together based on our findings, local conditions, and international cases, and support its application in the growth of children.

Kenshi Kuroki, Manager



BERD Website



<http://berd.benesse.jp/english/>

Posted here are views of BERD researchers plus special features on trends in Japanese education.

Three Research Centers Supported by Benesse

CRET

Center for Research on Educational Testing

<http://www.cret.or.jp/?english>

Together with educational institutions and researchers abroad and in Japan, this center researches theories and models regarding the development and assessment of qualities and abilities required by society.

ARCLE

Action Research Center for Language Education

<http://www.arcle.jp/>

Based on a grand design for future English education, this language education research center studies comprehensive English education for infants to adults.

CRN

Child Research Net

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

Through its international network, this internet-based research center takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children's issues. Websites in Japanese, English and Chinese.

Location

Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD)
Benesse Holdings, Inc.
1-34 Ochiai, Tama-shi, Tokyo 206-0033

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Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD) Research and Communication

<http://berd.benesse.jp/english/>

- Child Sciences and Parenting Research Office
- Elementary and Secondary Education Research Office
- Higher Education Research Office
- Global Education Research Office
- Curriculum Research and Development Office
- Assessment Research and Development Office
- Information Planning Office

Children are our Future

Through its research on child development and its communication with society at large, BERD contributes to learning and "living well" now and in the future.



Figuring out "Learning and Growth" with Children

Amid the declining birthrate, aging population, globalization and robots and artificial intelligence that will come to outperform humans, we are challenged to create a foundation that will encourage children to learn and proactively build their future.

Our research focuses on creating "an environment in which children can consider themselves independent learners." We also incorporate the views of researchers in Japan and abroad in an effort to gain a broader understanding of "learning and growth."

We look forward to your continuing instruction and support.

Kazunari Taniyama, General Manager

Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD)



We have been actively establishing research centers: Benesse Educational Research & Development Center in 2005, Benesse Institute for Child Sciences and Parenting in 2006, and Benesse Institute for Higher Education Research in 2012. As Benesse Corporation's in-house think-tank, we conduct research on a wide-range of subjects from infants to university students, working adults, parents, and teachers.

In 2013, these research organizations were consolidated to establish Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD). Taking a comprehensive approach to changes in childrearing and the educational environment, BERD conducts research on the skills required by future society, methods of acquiring such skills, and assessment.

We hope to see our research continue to contribute to society.

Kenichi Arai, Chairperson, BERD Board of Directors

Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD)



Child Sciences and Parenting Research Office



Junko Takaoka
Research Manager

The Child Sciences and Parenting Research Office supports the first stage of Benesse's many business areas that span prenatal development to adulthood. Our primary mission is to produce knowledge and research that will inform and support families with infants in healthy child raising practices. Another important mission is to examine childcare and early childhood education in Japan and abroad to ensure that children get a good start on a lifetime of learning.

【Research Themes】

<Parents>

- Children's "attitudes of learning to learn" (domestic/international)
- Maternal life/children's life from infancy to preschool age, parents' (mothers' and fathers') views on child raising and current situation (domestic/international)
- Digital media use by children
- Awareness of prenatal/postnatal support for mothers and current situation

<ECEC Facilities>

- Current situation of early childhood education and care (ECEC)
- Quality of ECEC



Research on Home Education from Early Childhood to First Grade in Elementary School

Follow-up surveys of mothers on the life and learning of children and concerns and awareness of mothers, etc., during the four years from early childhood to the first grade of elementary school. Surveys on the relation between home education and attitude of learning to learn and cognitive skills in early childhood and elementary school (2012-2015).



Higher Education Research Office



Akihiro Sato
Research Manager

The environment surrounding higher education is now undergoing dramatic change to meet the needs of globalization, technological innovation, and society. How should instruction and learning in higher education respond to these changes? How should these changes be assessed and applied in subsequent instruction and learning? Based on studies of the growth and development of children in elementary and secondary education, the Higher Education Research Office researches and develops how higher education can effectively promote and strengthen self-directed discovery, inquiring learning, and problem-solving for all learners in the changing social environment and proposes practical solutions for educational issues in the field. We communicate our vision of

socially relevant higher education and view of its current state in dialogue with other stages of education and provide a forum for discussion to improve education in Japan now and in the future.

【Research Themes】

The Higher Education Research Office scientifically studies environments of higher education that develop and strengthen the ability to continue learning and proposes ways to reform higher education to support the transition to society. Research and development focuses on the following:

- research on factors that elicit learners' independence and ways to support them,
- development of comprehensive methodologies involving "goals-instruction-assessment" in higher education,
- research on ways of learning through vocational education, development, and the transition to society, and research and development in various areas in line with current issues involving the reform in higher education.



Survey on University Learning and Self-Development

How has university education changed in response to various organizational reforms implemented since the 1990s? How does learning at university contribute to the lives of learners? By considering these questions from the perspective of learners and reflecting on reforms in university education, this survey seeks a view of university education in the future.



Elementary and Secondary Education Research Office



Qinfeng Shao
Research Manager

Children are our future, but today when the social and educational environment is undergoing such dramatic changes, what qualities and abilities will they need to acquire to prepare them for the responsibilities that lie ahead? What type of family, school, teachers, and social environment foster growth and development in children? The Elementary and Secondary Education Research Office conducts research to answer these questions and then makes the findings available. In addition to longitudinal studies and international comparisons, our activities include conducting a parent-child panel survey in joint research with The Institute of Social Science, The University of Tokyo to examine the life and learning processes of children.

【Research Themes】

<Parents & Children> ● "Parent-Child Survey on Children's Life and Learning" in the Children's Life and Learning Research Project (parent-child panel survey), a joint research with The Institute of Social Science, The University of Tokyo.

<Children> ● Academic ability, learning, and learning approaches ● Daily activities and schedule ● Theoretical and empirical research on learning strategies for proactive learning

<Parents> ● Child raising, views of education, after-school instruction ● Parents' perception of school (public education)

<Teachers> ● Teaching methods and working conditions



Basic Survey on Study in Japan V

This survey was conducted of approximately 9,800 students in the fifth grade of elementary, second grade in junior high, and second grade in senior high school from all over Japan in June and July 2015. It studied the attitudes and actual conditions of learning among elementary, junior high and senior high school students to understand changes over the 25-year period since 1990 and clarify learning-related issues today.



Global Education Research Office



Yumiko Kato
Research Manager

Ongoing globalization requires that we all become global citizens. The Global Education Research Office clarifies important issues of English education in Japan through research surveys of children, teachers and parents on English education and provides a framework for English education from infants to adults and opportunities for discussion of related issues. Building on knowledge obtained by our research, we will continue to survey and study education for global citizens.

【Research Themes】

- Grand design of English-language education in Japan from infants to adults
- English education in primary, lower and upper secondary schools
- Cultivating generic competencies through English education



Survey on English Instruction in Japanese Lower and Upper Secondary Schools (2015)

Surveyed English-language instruction and the awareness of Japanese lower and upper secondary school English teachers in all areas of Japan. Clarified related issues of English education in schools.



Curriculum Research and Development Office



Maki Nakagaki
Research Manager

Amid such trends as the declining birthrate and aging population, technological innovation, and ongoing globalization, the environment in which Japanese children live and learn today is undergoing dramatic change. What capabilities will children need to live and work in this future? More than simply completing the task at hand, they will need to identify the issue, work with others to resolve it, and create new values in the process.

The Curriculum Research and Development Office engages in the research and development of comprehensive curricula which take an integrated approach to goals, instruction, and assessment regarding the goals of the skills and abilities required in the future, the teaching

(learning) methods that will foster these skills, and the assessment of the learning outcomes. The use and application of information and communications technology (ICT) in learning, together with active learning, which has been studied by the ICT Education Research Office, plays an important role in developing children's ability.

【Research Themes】

Integrated research and development on learning goals, instruction, and assessment of generic competencies in elementary, lower and upper secondary education

- Goals and standards for generic competencies
- Methods of teaching and learning that foster generic competencies
- Assessment methods and techniques that assess and foster generic competencies



Survey on Learning using ICT

This survey, conducted from Oct. through Nov. 2013, of teachers at public elementary and junior high schools nationwide studies their attitude toward ICT use and actual use in the classroom, including competencies that they expect children to acquire and the modality of future learning.



Assessment Research and Development Office



Keitaro Kamata
Research Manager

Our mission is to contribute to excellence in education through research and development of educational assessments which meet current and future demands. Current educational reforms in Japan have two main objectives. The first objective is to ensure that students acquire fundamental knowledge and skills. The second objective is to foster human resources who can approach and solve problems through active engagement and collaboration with others with diverse backgrounds in the global, knowledge-based society. The second objective calls for certain generic competencies such as identifying

and solving problems, as well as autonomous and collaborative attitudes and orientations. The central concern in the current and future education is how to foster such abilities and attitudes and how to measure and evaluate them. In response to these trends, we conduct academically-sound surveys and studies, and disseminate the results, findings, and ideas to the public. Our research topics range from diagnostic assessment of subject-based knowledge and skills for effective learning, to assessment of generic and non-cognitive skills which is receiving growing attention.

【Current Research Topics】

- Methods for comprehensive evaluation of college readiness and measurement of generic skills in accordance with college admission policy reforms
- Assessment of skills and attitudes for life-long learning
- Assessment embedded in learning materials
- Item response theory (IRT) and related psychometric methods
- Bayesian statistics and its application to psychometrics
- Computer based testing (CBT) systems and databases for large-scale assessment