

# **Yale-China Research Program on Child Development**

## **Early Childhood Lab School Project**

**Yale University**

**Edward Zigler Center in Child Development & Social Policy**

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### **Mission & Objectives**

Early Childhood Lab School (ECLS) is a major component of Yale-China Research Program on Child Development. Through collaborative research, academic exchanges and resources sharing from Chinese experts, scholars, administrators and teachers in preschool and kindergartens, we aim to gain recognition from both parents and children by establishing internationalized, high standard and exemplary Early Childhood Lab Schools.

We will serve as a bridge between China and the US to promote mutual understanding and collaboration in the field of early childhood education among researchers, administrators, teachers and parents, to share the latest academic achievements, information support, technical support and working experience, to create the most appropriate educational environment and learning environment for children and to contribute to the quality improvement in the early childhood education in both countries.

### **Overall Planning of ECLS Project**

Yale University will choose qualified Chinese kindergarten programs as lab schools. These institutions share the following characteristics: having a positive climate and cohesive culture of teaching and research; being capable of carrying out and completing experimental tasks; willing to fulfill the correlative obligations.

The term of the cooperation between Yale University and lab schools is three years during which we offer continuous support to the lab schools in the following aspects in accordance with the cooperation agreement: sharing American early childhood education philosophy and management experience; introducing American early childhood education curriculum, toys and teaching aids; training kindergarten administrators and teachers, promoting exchanges and cooperation between American early childhood education institutions and lab schools; providing guidance and consultation on how to build a high-quality

lab school.

To comply with the cooperation agreement, lab schools are required to perform their jobs and accomplish experimental tasks according to plans and procedures, and to offer reports annually.

By the end of the term, Yale University will assess lab schools according to the Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria adopted by high-quality early childhood education institutions in the US and will confer the title of “High-quality Preschool and Kindergarten” accredited by Yale University on qualified schools.

### **Lab School Requirements and Application Procedures**

- **Lab School Requirements**

Yale University welcomes kindergarten programs in various types, scales and from different areas to participate in this program to promote the exchanges and cooperation in early childhood education between China and the U.S, so as to jointly make contribution to child development and growth. To ensure a scientific and successful implementation of the project and to provide a model of exemplary practice of high-quality preschool and kindergarten, a lab school must meet the following requirements:

- 1) It must be a legal early childhood program, holding China national accreditation. Its physical environment must meet the standards of first level of first-class in China. The school must host no less than 10 classes.
- 2) Its directors, far-sighted and with an international outlook, commit to professional development goals, accept the philosophy of early childhood education and child development held by Yale University, are willing to abide by the rules of lab schools and are able to perform their duties earnestly.
- 3) Its directors assent to provide manpower for and to invest in the training, exchanges and research activities required by the project.
- 4) Its teaching staff must maintain the high professional standards and strong receptive ability associated with American early childhood education curriculum and management.
- 5) It has the ability to carry out scientific research.

- **Lab School Application Procedure**

If you intend to participate in the program to become one of lab schools, please submit an application first. We will conduct an initial evaluation of your application and contact you for more information. We will then designate experts to perform an on-the-spot evaluation of your preschool and kindergarten. Based on that, we will sign a cooperation agreement, host a ceremony to unveil the plaque, lunch the initial training and accomplish other tasks in accordance with the cooperation agreement.

### **Duties of Lab School**

Lab schools are required to perform the following duties:

- Make an implementation plan in accordance with project requirements and monitor its

application effectively;

- Designate a program manager taking full responsibility for the project implementation;
- Assist the designated experts from Yale University to choose sample classes, so they can do the program-related observation, data collection and assessment;
- Make DVDs of classroom activities and games, which will be used in the quality assessment of lab schools' classroom activities and further training;
- Collect detailed information on the curriculum implementation from teachers, administrators, parents and children, and submit reports twice a year.

## **Contents of Cooperation**

### **1. Curriculum**

Yale University will assist lab schools in the implementation of Yale-Kaplan comprehensive early childhood education curriculum - *Learn Every Day*. We will provide all lab schools with the latest edition of textbooks and teachers' guides, and will train lab school teachers and instruct them in the use of the textbooks.

### **2. Toys and Teaching Aids**

Yale University will provide nine classes in each lab school with toys and teaching aids, which will meet the experimental necessity requirements completely. We will also provide information about the research and development, production and sales of toys, teaching aids, and equipment for reference only.

### **3. Training**

- Yale University will provide a two-day annual training session to all teachers from lab schools in China.
- Every year, ten teachers from each lab school will be invited to attend a senior workshop on early childhood education management at Yale University. All trainees will engage in research and studies for three days, visit American preschools and kindergartens and receive a certificate of training completion.
- The content of training: comprehensive preschool and kindergarten curriculum; Yale emotional literacy courses; early childhood mental health consultation; preschool and kindergarten games innovation; parenting philosophy in the US; family- early childhood school cooperative model; and field observation on American high-quality preschools and kindergartens.
- Yale University will provide a tailored training based on practical needs and requirements of lab schools, or the one focus more on the interested topics.

### **4. Collaborative Research**

Lab schools are supposed to participate in such researches as early childhood comprehensive curriculum, quality assessment, and child emotional development and offer convenience to surveys, case studies and experiments. Based on this project, we will assist lab schools apply for grants from government, social organizations and professional institutions and offer technical support and theoretical guidance to the corresponding research.

### **5. International Exchange**

Yale University will assist lab schools in international exchanges and cooperative activities as follows:

- By inviting chief executives to attend events in early childhood education allowing them opportunities to communicate with international experts, scholars and entrepreneurs, such as the annual meeting of NAEYC (National Association of the Education of the Young Children).
- By assisting lab schools in membership in international early childhood education associations so as to gain support from them.
- By offering chances of exchanges and visits in the US to preschool and kindergarten administrators and teachers, helping establish friendly relations between lab schools and early childhood institutions in the US.

## **6. Career Prospect**

Yale University will promote the development of lab schools based on its academic and social resources. We are willing to develop cooperative relations between lab schools and our other partners involved in the Yale-China Research Program and to help lab schools be exemplary of early childhood education curriculum and toys in its region.

Each lab school will be awarded a Yale accreditation plaque stating: “Yale-China Program on Child Development- ECLS”. After the completion of the project assessment, lab schools with excellent achievements will be conferred with the title of “High-quality Kindergarten program” accredited by Yale University.

## **Funding of the Lab School**

- Each lab school bears an annual operating fee of \$30,000 which covers:
  - 1) The cost of training sessions in the US, including tuition free and training materials fee for ten teachers.
  - 2) The cost of training sessions in China, including field investigation in lab schools, lecturing and travel expenses, for Yale experts.
  - 3) The cost of resources, equipments, information support and assurance provided by Yale University for lab schools.
  - 4) The cost of consultation, instruction and assistance relative to the operation of the project provided by Yale University for lab schools during the term of the cooperation agreement.
  - 5) The cost of various materials, photocopies, communications and postage, etc.
- During the term of the Agreement, we will provide the following to lab schools:
  - 1) Textbooks and teachers’ guides for sample classes,
  - 2) Project-related scales and materials,
  - 3) Project-related toys and teaching aids for nine classes.

(Note: Yale University has the final decision on the numbers and types of books, scales, toys and teaching aids according to the practical needs of the project. If lab schools request additional support or additional books, toys and teaching aids which are not included in the cooperation agreement, extra payment will be required.)

- Yale University will assist lab schools in applying for grants from the government, NGOs, domestic and international non-profit fund, industry groups and other sources.

## **Contact Information**

For more information, please contact us via email.

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Let's start a journey of innovation together!