

Simon K.Y. Lee Foundation  
李國賢基金會

# RESEARCH AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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Sindy Yeung  
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Simon K.Y. Lee  
Elderly Fund  
李國賢長者基金



Simon K.Y. Lee  
Children's Fund  
李國賢兒童基金

# Simon K.Y. Lee Foundation

李國賢基金會

(Set up in 1985 by the late Dr. Simon Lee)

## Board of Directors

(Family members of Dr. Simon Lee)



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## Advisory Committee

- Prof. Nelson Chow
- Prof. Linda Lam
- Dr. Edward Leung
- Dr. Lam Ching Choi
- Ms. Ophelia Chan



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## Advisory Committee

- Prof. Cheng Kai Ming
- Mrs. Justina Leung
- Dr. Sanly Tsang
- Mr. Cheung Hing Wah

# Foundation's Strategy



- Critical need
- Neglected
- Insufficient resources
- Inadequate service



- Research + Service (RCT)
- Evidence-based intervention
- Proven effectiveness
- Replicable



- Service development
- Innovation
- Knowledge transfer
- Policy change



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# Simon K Y Lee Children's Fund – FLY Project



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THE HONG KONG  
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
香港理工大學



香港大學  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

# Identify the Problem

## Development Gap between Rich and Poor Children

- Early years are critical – foundation for later learning, development and success
- Many parents lack the capacity, awareness and skills to provide appropriate nurturing, stimulation and exposure
- Deprived families – spectacularly disadvantaged
- Deprived preschoolers lag behind peers as early as when entering kindergarten → gap widens as children grow up

# Identify the Problem

## Service Gap – Why?

- Not aware of the need
- Does not have obligation – Not under FSAs of SWD
- Lack of financial resource – Gov't does NOT subsidize service for children aged 0 to 6 + labor intensive
- Lack of expertise and child-care workers
- No programme available/ do not know HOW to do

# Create the Solution

## Develop a Programme for Adoption/Reference

- **Ready to Use:** clear and complete rationale, objectives, target, structure, content and procedures
- **Proven Effectiveness:** scientifically tested, clear outcomes
- **Practical/Implementable:** reasonable cost, staff requirement, equipment

# Create the Solution



- Research cum Service Project /RCT
- To device an evidence-based programme; ↑ preschoolers' learning and development + ↑ parenting skills
- Children aged 1.5 from deprived families
- Prof Cynthia Leung, PolyU and Dr Sandra Tsang, HKU
- NGO partners: HKCS, Caritas, HKSPC, YWCA



# Create the Solution



- **60 sessions** (1 hr child learning + 1 hr parenting)/ 1 year
- **Structured** : specific theme, procedure, teaching plan and materials for each session
- **Holistic**: Cognitive, language, school readiness, behaviour, fine and gross motor
- **Partnership**: Inputs from academics + frontline practice
- **Evidence-based**: Pre and post tests, experimental and control groups, data analysis
- **Experimented in community**: IFSC, ICYSC, nursery schools, creches
- Delivered by NGO staff to 120 parent-child dyads (+ control)

# Leverage the Impact



## Service Development

- Aim: NGOs start/develop high-quality service for preschoolers from deprived families
- FLY Programme Manual available in late 2016
- Training workshops and/or sharing session
- Demonstration effect by 4 NGOs

## Policy Change

- Aim: Gov't adopts FLY programme/ subsidises preschoolers' service
- Research report – scientific and proven effectiveness
- Practicability – successful in different community settings + reasonable costs
- Availability – programme ready for use

# Conclusion

## Use of Research to Advocate Social Change

Research – to devise a **solution** to a social problem → **proven effectiveness** → promote to stakeholders /**scale up**

- *Specific problem to tackle*
- *Clear objective*
- *Partners with same vision*
- *Risk-taking*
- *Flexibility*
- *Invest time, money and effort*

# Conclusion

## Use of Research to Advocate Social Change

Outcome *beyond* Project Level

- *Knowledge transfer*
- *Change in the sector – mindset, service approach etc.*
- *Professional development*
- *New service/service advancement*
- *Community/public awareness*
- *Policy change*

Thank You!

