

CRCCP: BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

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KEYNOTE – DR JUNLEI LI

Simple and Deep Right Before our Eyes – Simple Interactions as the Active Ingredient for Human Development

Across all cultures human interactions take complex forms, but share four essential characteristics - connection, reciprocity, progression, and participation. Within this presentation Junlei used a range of interactive guidance videos

and resources to show how the presence of these 'active ingredients' power the

learning and development of our children. He highlights that these interactions are typically found in the simple interactions of key caregivers who are rarely highly specialized or trained...as a caregiver, simple and deep is far more essential than shallow and complex. Junlei backs up this perspective with videos from several orphanages in China, demonstrating differences in caregiver responses there and highlighting the importance of the consistent love and attention of at least one caregiver. This is a model whereby the orphanages

eventually closed and the farming community took on the care responsibilities for 200 children. He talks about the importance of 'developmental touch points' that occur many times in the day, and how, like a tube of toothpaste there are

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'active' and 'inactive' ingredients that hold the whole thing together.

He challenges us to ask ourselves the question 'what are the active and inactive ingredients in residential child care'? He goes on to discuss a seminal study in 1988 which sought to empirically prove the benefits of physiotherapy on cerebral palsy treatment. The researchers used a group receiving physiotherapy vs a control group receiving just social interaction. Astoundingly, the children receiving just positive social interaction improved significantly better physically than those receiving physiotherapy!!

KEY IDEAS:

- Therapeutic Change = **technique** (inactive ingredients) plus **Interactions** (active ingredients)
- Fred Rodgers: 'The longer I live the more I realize that that important interactions rarely happen in the spotlight'.
- Innovation is finding **something new** inside **something we already know**.
- Metaphor of inoculation: trust that something inside you can be awakened to work in a more effective way!!

