With most elementary and middle schools in the US and Canada either closed or about to close for winter break, we at EVIS look forward to engaging with the children in our lives. **We hope all children get to experience warm and joyful holidays.**

After the past few years, we need to do all that we can for the young people in our communities. Remote learning and an uncertain future have impacted the social, physical, emotional, and academic skills of children. According to child psychiatric epidemiologist Tamsin Ford, the pandemic heightened pre-existing struggles with emotional well-being and scarcity. The impacts of the pandemic on children's health are as broad as they are deep, from a rise in musculoskeletal issues in children whose classes have been moved online to a worsened achievement gap based on socioeconomic background. **We must find comprehensive solutions to the problems faced by young people today.**

**China's Unique Perspective**

China has had the longest school closures of any major country. While Shanghai faced a two-month lockdown, most Chinese cities have faced some form of extended lockdown. Psychologists are just starting to understand the impact of these lockdowns on children. Helping psychologists to best serve children post-lockdown are studies of another group of children in China: left-behind children. Left-behind children are the millions of children who are left with older generations while their parents migrate to cities to work. While COVID-19 is too recent to allow for longitudinal studies, left-behind children have been studied for decades. These studies have dealt with loneliness, peer rejection, academic achievement, and self-esteem. Although many children spent more time with their parents than usual during the pandemic, left-behind children, who have the opposite experience, still face similar challenges: social isolation, lack of structure and engagement, and, in the realm of physical health, infrequent doctor's visits. **Leveraging prior findings on left-behind children can help identify solutions for the challenges faced by children returning to school in North America.**

How to Access Research on Chinese Children's Health

Through East View's China Research Gateway, researchers can access valuable information from leading Chinese education, psychology, psychiatry, and medical journals. CRG has over 48,000 publications on left-behind children, including almost 15,000 journal articles, over 5,000 theses and dissertations, over 1,000 conference proceedings, over 3,000 newspaper articles, and over 11,000 yearbook entries. Of particular relevance to North American classrooms is China's research on targeted poverty alleviation. Journal articles on the efficacy of special programs to improve rural teacher quality and provide healthcare by neighborhood can be of use to North American researchers, particularly those exploring how to tackle education and health at the community level. CRG also has several monographic serials and even patents related to left-behind children. Patents range from learning and therapeutic platforms to devices to help young children and the elderly open cans of food and squeeze toothpaste tubes. Scholars armed with the best research available on children's physical and mental health will help us foster resilient future generations.

See the below links for further reading on children's health, including in China.

- ‘It felt like my insides were crying’: China COVID curbs hit youth mental health – Reuters [https://www.reuters.com/world/china/it-felt-like-my-insides-were-crying-china-covid-curbs-hit-youth-mental-health-2022-08-29/]

China Research Gateway (CRG) presents the full spectrum of Chinese research, with exhaustive representation of STEM, social science, and humanities disciplines. Featuring an unparalleled breadth of sources, including scholarly journals, monographs, statistical publications, government documents, newspapers, dissertations, conference proceedings, patents, and many other content types, CRG offers a centralized means for discovery and access to this rich trove of research, specifically tailored to serve the needs of North American scholars and institutions.

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