

**CONTACT: Andrea Browning**  
**SRCD Communications**  
**(202) 289-7905**  
[abrowning@srcd.org](mailto:abrowning@srcd.org)

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## **Adopted Children From China: How Do They Adapt & Develop?**

*New Research May Help Parents Understand What to Expect*

In 2005, about 35% to 60% of internationally adopted children in the U.S., Canada, Norway or the Netherlands were from China. About 80% of these children were adopted before age two and over 95% are girls. Prior to adoption, most of these children were cared for by the Child Welfare Institutes. In the United States alone, nearly 60,000 adopted Chinese children currently live in American families.

The SRCD biennial meeting will bring researchers from four major adopting countries (U.S., Canada, the Netherlands, and Norway) to answer questions parents may have on the behavior, educational achievement, and physical or motor skills of adopted Chinese children.

- Does the height and age ratio, and age of adoption matter?
- Among adopted infants, does the child's history affect the mental and physical development?
- What about anxiety levels among adopted children?
- Are there differences between pre-school adoptees and school-age adoptees?
- What about exposure to alcohol and drugs?
- What parental characteristics affect the development of these children?
- How do adopted children from China perform academically compared to their environmental classmates?

Children available for adoption in China represent all economic and social levels. This fact makes adoption from China unique in relation to most other countries where adoption is often the result of poverty, war and other traumatic conditions. Most Chinese adoptees are cared for by institutions required to maintain certain standards.

***Researchers: Tony Tan & Kofi Marfo, University of South Florida, Tampa; Louise Cossette, University of Quebec, Montreal; Femmie Juffer, Leiden University, Netherlands; Monica Dalen, University of Oslo, Norway.***