

Yingtang Social Welfare Institute

January 14, 2011 Report

1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** She Xiaozhen (余小贞)
- b) **Institute Vice-Director:** Ai Ciping (艾茨萍)
- c) **Head of the Amity Foster Care Project:** Zhan Jianjun (占建军)
- d) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** most of Yingtang's foster children are older, so they only return to the Institute for check-ups once every six months.
- e) **Number of Children:** Amity currently sponsors 21 children for foster care, while the Institute sponsors between 7-9. Approximately 30 children, the majority of whom have cerebral palsy or a cognitive disability, reside at the Institute itself (this number often fluctuates).

2. Overall Impression

The Yingtang children moved into the Institute's two new children's buildings (shown in pictures 1 and 2) in the second half of 2010. The building in front houses mainly infants and toddlers, while the building behind it houses mainly older children. Each building has a playroom for the children on the first floor (pictures 3 and 4). There are currently two large, empty spaces in front of and beside the new children's buildings (pictures 5 and 6); the Institute director is planning to have them landscaped with some grass and trees.



1



2



3



4



5 (in front of children's buildings)



6 (to the side of children's buildings)

3. Interviews

a) Met with 21 foster children and their foster families



This boy had to switch schools this semester after being expelled from his previous school for behavioral problems. His new school is fairly far from his foster home, so the Institute provided him with a bike which he now rides there every day. His grades still aren't the best, but overall he is doing better at this new school. He still acts out, but restrains himself more than before, and the school principal makes a point of guiding him with frequent heart-to-hearts.



The girl has not made huge progress over the last six months, as she still needs to be held up by her foster mother in order to walk. She *has* seen improvement, though, thanks to persistent physical therapy from her foster mother: she appears much more relaxed when taking a step, and she can now walk a greater distance than before. She can eat on her own, isn't picky about her food, and has a good appetite. She sleeps soundly at night. She communicates her needs both verbally and through body language (she tends to favor the latter because she cannot speak very clearly). She relies entirely upon adults to manage her daily life; for example, she needs to be accompanied to the toilet at fixed times throughout the day.



This foster child still cannot walk, but she can now stand while leaning on something for a longer period of time. Her foster mother will often have her stand throughout the day in order to strengthen her legs. She will also hold her up and walk with her. According to her foster mother, this

little girl was so afraid to walk at first that she would cry up a storm, but she's much better about it now after a few sessions. Her verbal skills are currently limited to a few honorifics, but she can understand and respond accordingly to what adults say. She needs adult assistance when using the toilet. She has a good appetite and sleeps soundly.



This boy has switched to a new kindergarten, where he is currently in the advanced class. He is doing well at his new school, where he is well-liked by both classmates and teachers. Academically, he seems to be keeping up in class and will ask his foster family for help when he doesn't understand something in his homework. He had finished his final exams two days before we saw him. He scored well on all of them, especially on the math exam, for which he got full marks. Now he can relax and have fun over winter break!



This foster child had made significant progress in her language abilities: she can now communicate in short phrases and also knows things like her foster mother's first and last name. She loves to play with her friends and

rarely gets into fights with any of them. She cannot yet sing a whole children's song on her own, but she can dance and hum along to the music.



FM is still the polite, kind, and mature girl we saw on our last visit. She is still earning average marks in grade 6 of primary school. Grade 6 is the primary grade before the middle school entrance exam, so school has been more stressful for FM this year, as she must study harder and try to master all of her subjects. FM will be able to relax her studies a bit during the upcoming winter break, though she will keep busy by helping around the house, and of course by going outside to play.



(Child on left) On top of understanding and responding to what adults are saying, she has also begun to communicate in short phrases and honorifics. She can take care of her own needs at an age-appropriate level and also help out around the house. She is a cheerful girl who always seems to be smiling. She loves playing with her friends and watching cartoons.

(Child on right) A lively boy, he still likes to play and roughhouse with his friends. He has grown much taller since the last time we saw him six months ago, and he's also eating much more. He can count to 30 on his own and to 100 with some help. He can also sing a few songs, though he still cannot enunciate very clearly. He can perform most daily tasks for himself, as well as help his foster mother with chores around the house.



The Institute director has arranged for this boy to attend Yingtan Normal High School along with one of our other foster kids. He is earning middling grades in his core classes, but he loves P.E. and ranks consistently in the top 5 of his P.E. class. He boards at his school and goes home on the weekends and holidays.



This girl has cerebral palsy and is in year 3 of primary school. She still maintaining good grades and finishes her homework on her own. Her

favorite thing to do in her free time is to draw, and her drawings are just getting better and better. She wasn't on winter vacation yet when we saw her; she still had to get through a few more days of finals. She is very excited for the break: not only will she be able to play with her friends, but her older sisters, who are usually much busier with school, will also have time to play again.



This boy can basically take care of all his own needs, such as getting dressed, eating, and using the restroom. He can also move between a chair and his wheelchair with ease. He is very mobile in his wheelchair, moving back and forth and turning corners without a problem. Socially, he is a warm-hearted young man and an excellent host who never fails to invite visitors to sit and have something to eat. He is always happy to see Institute staff when they come to check up on him, and always exhorts them to come back and visit again.

- b)** Met with the young man (orphan) we had been sponsoring in school who is now spending the winter vacation back at the orphanage. He recently attended a technical school major in hand-made craft of tea-pot in Yixing, Jiangsu Province. The tuition was free for him.



c) Met with 3 Amity Grandmas and 1 doctor



Doctor Wang Junjie is responsible for diagnosing and treating all of the Institute's children and elderly residents. She moved along with the Children's Division into one of the new Children's Buildings.

In the Children's Division, Doctor Wang makes daily rounds of the children's rooms and checks in with the childcare staff on the health of the children. On the day of our visit, Doctor Wang was giving an oral exam to a child with a cleft lip and palate. Doctor Wang had put this child on a drug regimen for a mouth infection a few days before, and she seemed to have made a full recovery by the time we arrived. The childcare staff told us that she was willing to eat again, her appetite had increased, and she was sucking milk and chewing food more easily.



Grandma Yu Hongying works mainly in the Institute's rehab room, doing rehabilitation with and educating the Institute children with disabilities. Grandma Yu is now working with the little girl pictured. This child has hypertonia (abnormally tight muscles) in all four of her limbs due to her cerebral palsy. Her muscle tone was so rigid when she first came to the Institute that she could not even sit up against something—all she could do was lie there on her back. Her hands were constantly balled into fists, and her legs were locked straight.

Following a period of rehabilitation with Grandma Yu, she can now sit up while

leaning against something, albeit unsteadily. Her hands are also no longer clenched so tightly; they at least try to uncurl if you hold something out to her. Grandma She is very fond of this child and hopes that she will make great progress as she continues to go through rehabilitation.



Grandma Zhong Xiaofang is mainly responsible for rehabilitating and educating the Institute's children with disabilities. On the day we visited, Grandma Zhong was looking after and playing with two young children (some of the staff have not yet moved into the new Children's Building, so the Grandmas are taking care of some of the infants and toddlers for now). The child in the photograph closest to Grandma Zhong is a boy with hemangioma of infancy, or benign tumors on the skin. His condition has yet to produce any complications (hemangioma rarely does), and he is developing normally on all fronts. He is particularly fond of toys which make noise—in the picture, he is shaking a rattle and laughing in delight at the sound it makes.