

Project Summary

(Revised)

Project Title Developing an Early Childhood Classroom Observation Scale (ECCOS) to Assess the Quality of Education in Hong Kong Kindergartens	Project Number 2008/0323
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Name of Organization: Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong

1. **Goal:** To improve the quality of pre-primary education in Hong Kong.

Objectives: (i) To construct an authentic and practical classroom observation instrument that is dedicated to Hong Kong kindergartens to enhance the quality of early childhood programmes.

(ii) To develop a useful tool with established reliability and validity for research and programme evaluation.

(iii) To support kindergartens to use the instrument to assess the quality of teaching and learning against the *Performance Indicators* issued by the government, construct and implement action plans, and evaluate the outcomes.
2. **Targets:** (i) Direct beneficiaries: Early childhood teachers, kindergarten principals, child care workers, and child care supervisors;
- (ii) Indirect beneficiaries: EDB officials, ECE and related researchers in Hong Kong and users in other Chinese societies.
3. **Implementation Plan with Timeline**

(i) Duration: September 2009 – August 2010.	
(ii) Schedule:	
1 st -2 nd months: 9/09 – 10/09	Preparation, Interviews, Instrument Development
3 rd -4 th months: 11/09 – 12/09	Pilot Study
4 th -5 th months: 12/09 – 1/10	Data Analysis & Refinement of Instrument
6 th -8 th months: 2/10 – 4/10	Classroom Observation & Data Collection
6 th -9 th months: 2/10 – 5/10	Data Analyses
10 th -12 th months: 6/10 – 8/10	Finalization of Outcomes
4. **Products:**
 - (i) **Outcomes:** ECCOS, an authentic and practical classroom observation instrument with established reliability and validity, an instructional menu, seminars, videos
 - (ii) **Dissemination/ commercialization of outcomes:**
The instrument (ECCOS) will be published and disseminated by QEF; Seminars, which will be video-taped and released as VCDs or uploaded online; Conference papers/ scholarly journals will be published to inform the values and benefits of the classroom observation instrument
5. **Budget:**

(a) Staff: \$159,228 + (b) Equipment: \$9,500 + (c) General Expenses: \$10,000 = \$178,800 (round up to the nearest hundred)
6. **Evaluation:**
 - (i) Feedback from practitioners, kindergarten administrators, education experts, parents, policymakers, and the very first users of the classroom observation instrument (i.e. the Research Assistant and the Project Manager) will be collected and compared using interviews, field notes, observation, and questionnaires with a 5-point Likert scale and open-ended questions.
 - (ii) Validity and reliability will be judged statistically and should meet the general criteria set by established scales in similar domain.