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Comparison on Froebel’s Gifts in today’s childhood in tier 1versus tier 5 city in China.

A country that boasts a large geographic area, with the highest population in the world like China is currently facing a big discrepancy in the overall social, economic and educational development among cities despite its remarkable economic growth caused by the government’s active urbanization. China has established a city-tier system that categorize its over 600 cities into 5 different tiers. A tier one city is the highest and a tier five city is the lowest according to different factors such as GDP, income level, administrative level and population. Most attention in terms of government spending, draw of investors and education resources is given to tier one cities at a disproportionate rate. This causes the lower tiered cities to miss out on many opportunities afforded in higher tiered cities.

This presentation seeks to understand if these disadvantages affect children’s childhood even when being exposed to gifts in their kindergarten. This presentation will be based on the survey research of 20 children who play with Froebel’s gifts. Ten will be at a Froebelian kindergarten in the tier one city of Beijing and ten will be at a Froebelian kindergarten in the tier five city of LaiXi. The objective of this research is to determine through surveys, discussions, and observations whether a marked and significant disparity exists in these two types of cities.