



Jihyun Sung

Professor

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Sungkyunkwan University

Jihyun Sung, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Child Psychology and Education at Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea. Her research focuses on early childhood development and education, with particular attention to the complex mechanisms through which family, educational, and sociocultural contexts shape young children's developmental trajectories.

Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives in developmental science and early childhood education, Sung has examined children's social, cognitive, linguistic, and emotional development amid rapid socioeconomic and educational change. Her recent research addresses parent-child interaction, mother-child book reading, children's social understanding and pragmatic development, play-based learning, and the holistic well-being of the early childhood education and care workforce.

Sung has expertise in advanced quantitative research methods, including structural equation modeling and longitudinal data analysis, which she uses to investigate complex developmental and educational ecologies. Her empirical research is closely connected to evidence-based educational practice and policy discussions. Recently, she contributed as a co-author to the *Korean Childcare Policy White Paper*, helping to link academic research to national discussions on early childhood education, care, and family policy reform.

Sung also actively contributes to the international scholarly community as a reviewer for leading SSCI-indexed journals and serves in an editorial role for a major Korean academic society in early childhood education and care. She has recently submitted a study entitled "Early-Life Developmental Risk in South Korea" for consideration in the *Chinese Sociological Review* special issue on early childhood development in East Asia. Through this work, she seeks to advance cross-cultural dialogue and policy-relevant scholarship on early childhood development in Korea and the broader East Asian context.