

Code of Ethics of the Japan Society of Developmental Psychology

Preamble

The Japan Society of Developmental Psychology (hereinafter “JSDP”) establishes this Code of Ethics in order to fulfill the objectives specified in Article 3 of its Articles of Incorporation. This Code is intended to ensure that all activities of the JSDP, both academic and social, are conducted with the utmost respect for the fundamental human rights and dignity of all individuals.

JSDP members are expected to act with a strong sense of social awareness and responsibility as professionals engaged in developmental psychology research and related practical activities.

Members should strive to support the lifelong development of all people and engage in practices that contribute to this goal. While the realization of these aims relies on the autonomy of each member, members are also expected to take an active interest in one another’s conduct and to be mindful of acting in accordance with research ethics in their work.

Based on the spirit of this preamble, the following ethical principles are established.

Ethical Principles

Article 1: Fundamental Spirit

JSDP members must always pay careful attention to the fundamental human rights of those who cooperate with them when conducting and publishing research or practice-related activities.

1. Protecting life, health, dignity, integrity, autonomy, privacy, and confidentiality of personal information is the responsibility of all those involved in developmental psychology research and practice.
2. All necessary precautions must be taken to safeguard privacy and to maintain the confidentiality of personal information.
3. Particular care must be taken not to infringe the rights of children, persons with disabilities, and older adults.
4. Animal research must be conducted appropriately, with due consideration for animal welfare and with the aim of contributing to the harmonious coexistence of the global community.

Article 2: Considerations and Restrictions in Conducting Research

When conducting research or practice-related activities, JSDP members are obliged, in principle, to provide sufficient prior explanation of the purpose, procedures, and other relevant aspects of the research to informants and research collaborators, and to obtain their consent. In doing so,

they must ensure that participation in the research is entirely voluntary, and must obtain consent either in writing or orally. Invitations to participate in research must not exert excessive pressure. If a member's institution has an ethics review committee, the member must, in principle, submit an application in accordance with the prescribed procedures and obtain a review and approval. In addition, the JSDP establishes separate guidelines on conflicts of interest (COI) and manages COI in accordance with these guidelines. Members are required to declare any COI in accordance with these guidelines.

1. Participants must, in principle, be informed in advance that they are free to refuse to take part in the research, or to withdraw or discontinue participation at any time of their own choosing.
2. As a basic principle, consent should be obtained directly from the research participants. However, when it is difficult for the participant to make an informed decision about consent—for example, in the case of children or individuals with disabilities or illnesses—consent must be obtained from a person in a position to protect the participant (such as a parent or guardian). Simultaneously, the researcher must provide an explanation to the participant in a manner appropriate to their level of understanding and make every reasonable effort to obtain their assent. If the participant expresses dissent, this must be respected. Particular care must be taken regarding the potential impact of the research on children and on individuals with disabilities or illnesses.
3. When obtaining consent, researchers should, in principle, disclose information relevant to the conduct of the research. They must anticipate any potential adverse effects associated with the research and consider in advance how such effects might be prevented or addressed. If such adverse effects occur, they must promptly take steps to resolve the situation.
4. If, during the course of the research or activity, the researcher becomes aware of any threat to the physical or mental well-being of participants, or of negative effects on those around them, the research must be immediately suspended and appropriate measures taken to improve the situation.

Article 3: Strict Confidentiality of Information

Information obtained through research or practical activities must be strictly managed and must not be used for purposes other than those originally agreed upon at the time consent was obtained. Information not covered by the consent provided must not be used. If the information is to be

used for purposes beyond those originally agreed, consent must be obtained again from the research participants.

Article 4: Responsibility in Publishing Research Results

When JSDP members publish the results of their research or practice-related activities, they must do so with full awareness of their responsibilities as professionals and with careful consideration of the social significance of their work. They must also be mindful of the social, humanitarian, and political implications of their research and act responsibly as experts.

1. The privacy of individuals must not be violated.
2. Prior consent from participants must be obtained before publication. At the same time, care must be taken to ensure that participants cannot be identified without their consent. The fact that consent has been obtained should be clearly indicated at the time of publication. Photographs and similar materials must also be handled in such a way that individuals cannot be identified.
3. When using materials in research, the sources must be clearly cited. If the authors or their collaborators have previously published related work, such works must also be appropriately cited.
4. In collaborative research, a shared understanding of the common objectives must be established from the outset. When publishing results, adequate consideration must be given to the rights and responsibilities of all collaborators. The ownership of data, the manner in which results will be disseminated, and authorship (including first and co-authorship) must be agreed upon at the planning stage. Particular consideration must be given to educational responsibilities toward students and to safeguarding their interests.
5. Research conducted with the support of grants or other funding must clearly indicate this fact. JSDP members are obligated to act in accordance with the “Guidelines on Conflict of Interest (COI)” established by the JSDP. Information regarding conflicts of interest must be disclosed using the COI declaration form specified by the JSDP.
6. Research results must be presented accurately and in a manner consistent with developmental psychological evidence, without falsification, exaggeration, or distortion.
7. When submitting work to the JSDP journal or other publication outlets, members must not submit the same manuscript simultaneously to another journal or academic society. Publishing multiple papers based on the same data, with the same objectives and analytical methods, is also prohibited. If a single, comprehensive study is divided into multiple smaller studies for publication, the overall design and objectives, as well as the

relationship between previously published work and the study being reported, must be clearly indicated.

8. The authors listed on a publication must be limited to those who have made substantive contributions to the research. Individuals who did not contribute must not be listed as authors. Care must be taken to ensure that authorship is not influenced inappropriately by organizational position, and in particular, that students and staff are not disadvantaged in terms of authorship.

Article 5: Obligation for Professional Development

JSDP members should seek opportunities to fully understand and implement this Code of Ethics. The JSDP must provide opportunities to promote awareness, understanding, and implementation of this Code in order to foster academic integrity and autonomous professional conduct among its members.

Article 6: Compliance with Ethics and Handling of Ethical Concerns

JSDP members must make every effort to fully understand and comply with this Code of Ethics in their research and practice in developmental psychology. If a situation arises in which a potential violation of this Code is suspected, the Representative Director may, as necessary, establish an Ethics Investigation Committee to address the issue and to ensure the fairness of members' research activities.

Article 7: Revision

Revisions to this Code of Ethics must be approved by the General Assembly of the Society.

Supplementary Provision

This Code of Ethics came into effect on March 22, 2018.

This document is an English translation of the original Japanese text. In the event of any discrepancy between this translation and the Japanese original, the Japanese version prevails.