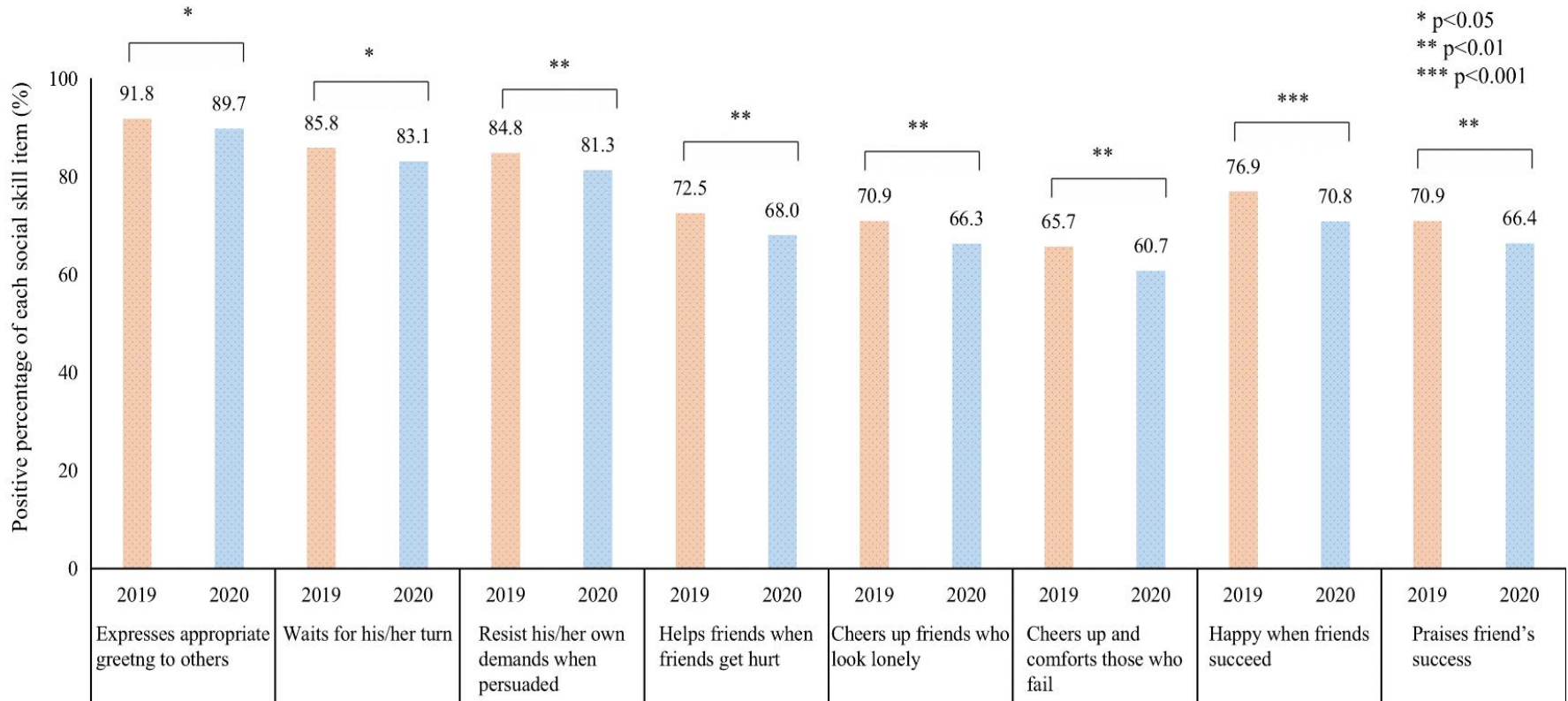


## Social skills of Japanese preschool children pre- and post- COVID-19



**Figure: Chi-square test showed children's social skills in 2019 were better than those in 2020**

**Children's social skills in 2019 were better than in 2020. Childcare institutions should support and ensure healthy child social development under the unknown duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Participants:** Children aged 1-6 years old in childcare centers from Japan Child Care Cohort Study were recruited. Numbers of children are 1917 in 2019 and 1989 in 2020.

**Process:** Childcare professionals evaluated children's social skills using Social Skill Scale (SSS) in the same childcare centers, in both December 2019 and again December 2020.

