

Selected facts on CAREGIVING PRACTICES AND ACCESS TO PLAY OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME

An optimal home environment includes safe and well-organized physical conditions, opportunities for children to play, explore and discover, and the presence of developmentally appropriate objects, toys and books. In addition, engagement in early stimulation and responsive interactions with caregivers is an essential element of brain development – and of building a solid foundation for a child’s future.



Roughly **1 in 7 children** under age 5 do not have toys or playthings at home



Around **1 in 5 children** aged 2–4 years do not play with their caregivers at home



Children are equally likely to play with mothers and other caregivers but about two times less likely to play with fathers



Approximately **4 in 10 children** aged 2–4 years do not engage in enough stimulating activities with caregivers at home; around **1 in 10 children** of this age do not engage in any such activities with caregivers



The least common stimulating activity children experience with their caregivers is reading books. Children are approximately four times more likely to engage in stimulating activities with their mothers compared with their fathers, and fathers are also less likely than other caregivers to engage in stimulating activities with their children

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