

KEY DATA FACTS ON PLAY

Around the world, more than 80 million children aged 2 to 4 years (or 1 in 5) do not engage in regular play with their caregivers at home

Worldwide, over 90 million children under age 5 (or 1 in 7) are without playthings at home

Of all children missing out on playful interactions with their caregivers, 3 in 4 live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia

While the proportion of children who play with their mothers or with other caregivers in the home is similar, children are nearly half as likely to play with their fathers

Children in low-income countries are 25 per cent less likely to play with their caregivers compared with children in high-income countries





Children with multiple disabilities, those living in rural areas and in the poorest households, and whose mothers have lower levels of education are all less likely to engage in playful interactions with caregivers at home

Today, about half the world's countries have collected internationally comparable data on whether children have the opportunity to play with their caregivers at home, compared with only 10 countries just two decades ago, when such standardized data were first collected. This steady expansion testifies to a growing commitment to better understand all the factors and experiences that help children thrive, including play