Early childhood development programs seek to benefit children.

They also have major implications for other household members.

Most studies ignore those.
How ECD interventions affect women

• We screened 3,727 studies from 2005 to 2019.

• We identified 866 impact evaluations of ECD interventions in low- and middle-income countries.

• In an ongoing study, we examine impacts on all household members, and mothers in particular.
Early results from 150+ studies (2017-2018)

- Only a third of studies report on outcomes for the mother.
- A tiny fraction study outcomes for siblings or fathers.

Percentage of studies measuring outcomes for...

- Children age 0-5: 89%
- Mother or primary caregiver: 33%
- Father or parents: 5%
- Siblings: 3%
Even among studies that report outcomes for the mother or principal caregiver, many only report outcomes that relate directly to caregiving.
Community-based daycare in rural India reduced stress for women but not their work burden.

(Richardson et al. 2018)

Cash transfers for mothers of young children in Zambia increased financial decision making power.

(Bonilla et al. 2017)

Community-based preschool in Mozambique increased work among adult caregivers and increased schooling among older siblings.

(Martinez, Naudeau, & Pereira 2017)

Publicly provided daycare centers increased labor market participation of grandmothers in urban Brazil.

(Attanasio et al. 2019)