

Parental Childcare and Family Time, 1961-2015

The Future of Families Policy Conference

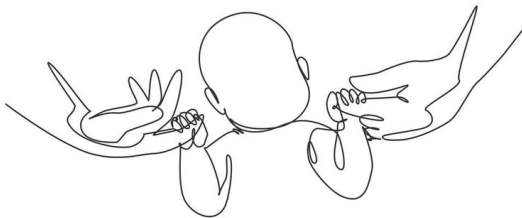
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In this talk

- ▶ Present new empirical evidence on the transformation of parental time and family time using data going back to the 1960s
- ▶ Address the inequalities in terms of time and parental interactions in early childhood
- ▶ Vagni (2023) *Social Class and Educational Stratification of Childcare in Britain, 1961-2015*
- ▶ Vagni (in preparation) *Social Interaction in Britain, 1983-2021: Trends in Family Time, Couple Time, and Time with Others*

Parental interactions is an important part of child development.

The time that parents spend with their children is an essential mechanism in the production and reproduction of inequalities*



*(Bono et al., 2016; Ermisch, 2008; Fomby & Musick, 2018; Kalil & Mayer, 2016)

Time Diary Data

Nationally representative surveys: 1961, 1974, 1983, 2000, 2015

SPECIMEN PAGE

Time	At Home	Not at Home		MAIN ACTIVITIES Please enter here details of your main activity in each half-hour	OTHER ACTIVITIES If you were doing anything else during that half hour enter the details below	PLEASE TICK IF YOU WERE							Title of Programme
		Radio available	Radio not available			Viewing		Listening			Others (please state which)		
						BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Radio				
									1	2		4	
5.00-5.30 am	✓			In bed									
5.30-6.00	✓												
6.00-6.30	✓												
6.30-7.00	✓			getting up									
7.00-7.30	✓			preparing breakfast	talking to children								
7.30-8.00	✓			Washing up	listening to radio					✓			Tony Brandon
8.00-8.30	✓			housework						✓			Tony Brandon
8.30-9.00			✓	taking children to school									
9.00-9.30			✓	shopping									
9.30-10.00			✓	visiting a friend									

Day 1
Time: 7am – 10am
Morning

Day 1
Time: 7am – 10am

Time: 7am–10am Morning (am)	What were you doing? Please write down one main activity.	If you did something else at the same time, what else did you do?	Did you use a smartphone tablet, or computer?	Where were you? Location, or mode of transport	Were you alone or with somebody you know? Mark all relevant boxes							How long did you do this? 1 = not 7 = very
					Alone	Spouse / partner	Mother	Father	Child aged 0-7	Other person	Others you know	
7am-7.10	Woke up the children		<input type="checkbox"/>	At home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
7.10-7.20	Had breakfast	checked emails	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	↓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
7.20-7.30	" "	Talked with my family	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
7.30-7.40	Cleared the table	Listened to the radio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
7.40-7.50	↓	↓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	↓
7.50-8am	Helped the children dressing	Talked with my children	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	↓
8am-8.10	" "	↓	<input type="checkbox"/>	↓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	↓
8.10-8.20	Went to the day care centre	↓	<input type="checkbox"/>	on foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1

Use an arrow or quote marks to record that an activity lasted longer than 10 minutes.

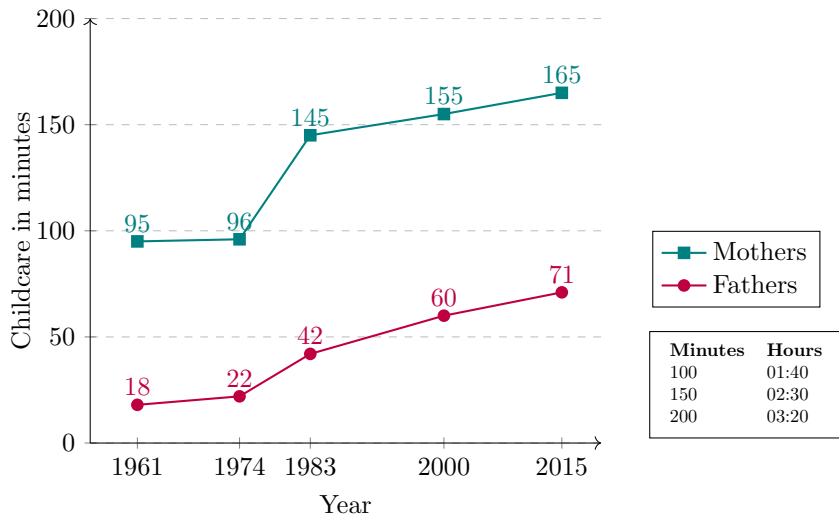
Figure 2: 2015

Overview

Time spent doing childcare has **increased** dramatically since the 1960s

In the context of an increase in female labour participation during the same period

Childcare by Sex, 1961-2015



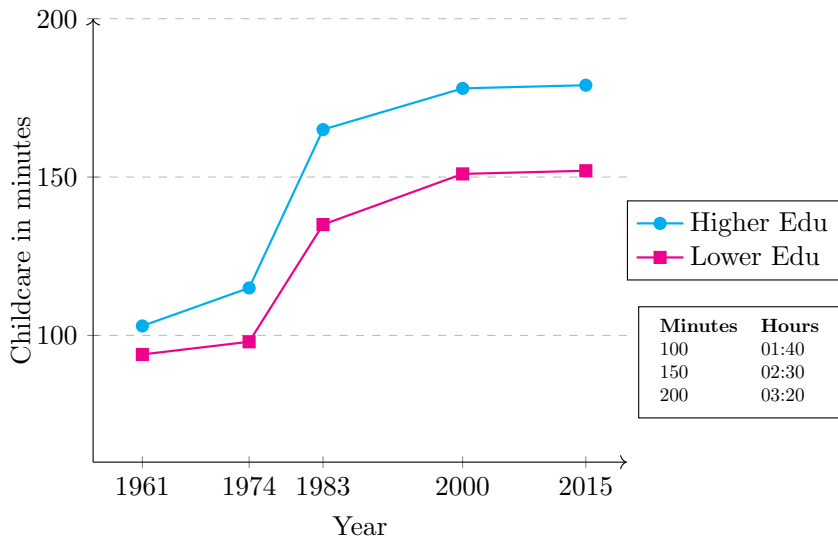
Stylised from Vagni, 2023, please refer to the original figure

Inequality Trend

The most notable unequal change in childcare is between mothers' with a higher education background and those without

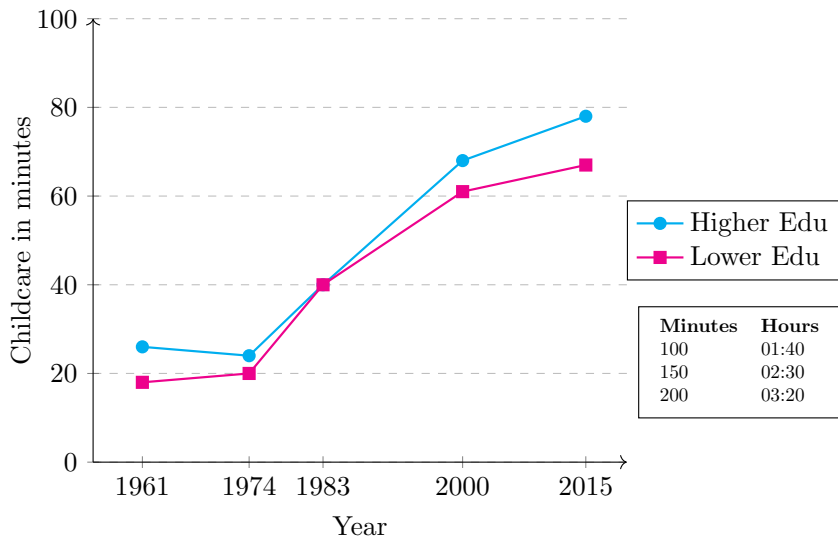
For fathers, the difference is smaller between educational groups

Childcare by Mothers' Education, 1961-2015



Stylised from Vagni, 2023, please refer to the original figure

Childcare by Fathers' Education, 1961-2015



Stylised from Vagni, 2023, please refer to the original figure

Time with children

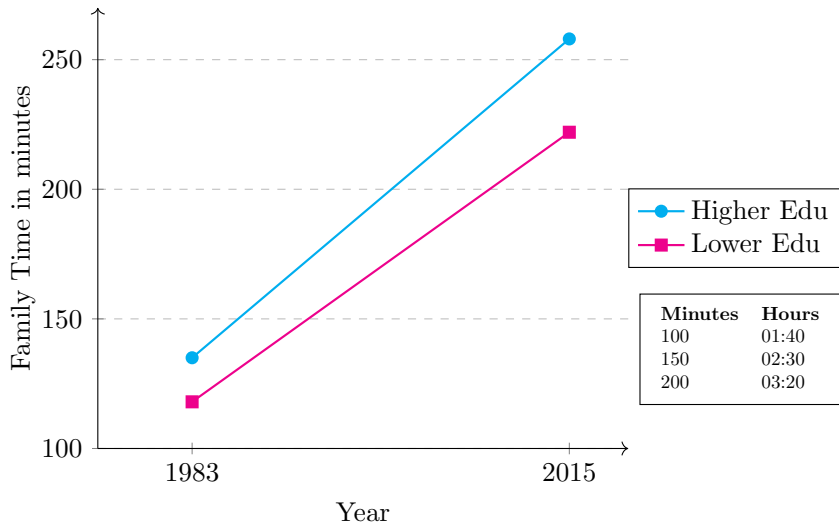
We can also look at the total time that parents spend with children, which is reported by the **co-presence** information in the diaries: **with whom did you share the activity?**

- ▶ This includes all possible activities: leisure, domestic chores, watching TV, and caring activities.

We can also look at **family time**, which is the time shared with the partner and the children.

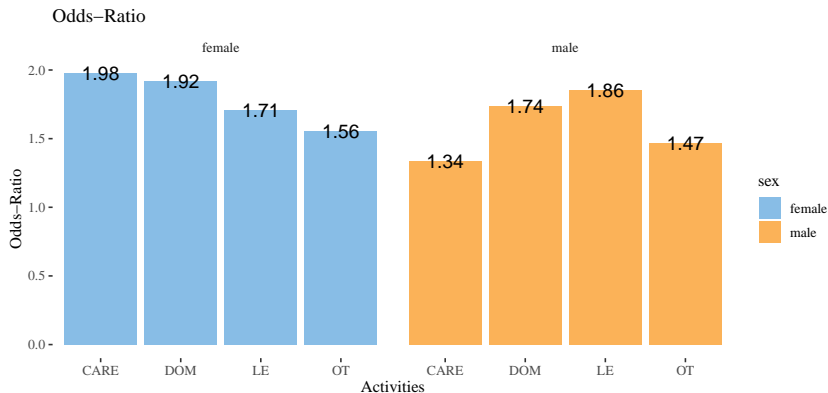
I will show the results for family time as they are similar to the total time with children.

Family Time by Education, 1983-2015



Family Activities

The reference category is parents with no education degree who watch TV during family time



The odds ratio of 1.98 means that women with an education degree are 1.98 times more likely to engage in care activities compared to watching TV during family time than parents with no education degree.

Thank you for your attention

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