

## **Title: How the Allocation of Children's Time Affects Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Development**

### **Abstract:**

The allocation of children's time among different activities may be important for their cognitive and non-cognitive development, which in turn can affect later life outcomes, such as educational attainment, wages, employment, and choice of occupation. Yet most research in economics and sociology focuses on only a few determinants of children's development (e.g. child care, parental income, TV time) while ignoring many other daily activities. In our work we exploit time use diaries from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (K Cohort) to study the effect of time allocation across a wide range of alternative activities. On the one hand, our results suggests that time spent in educational activities, either with parents or other adults, is the most productive input for cognitive skills. Perhaps surprisingly, we also find than time spent using media or in social activities is more productive than time in formal school/day care. On the other hand, non-cognitive skills appear insensitive to alternative time allocations. Instead, these skills mostly depend on mother's behaviour, such as warmth and strictness.