



NEWSLETTER

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Making measurement easier

A new [World Bank blog](#) reports on the launch of a [SIEF-funded toolkit](#) that helps researchers and development practitioners understand how to measure early childhood development accurately and reliably. "The toolkit should be a requirement for any team working on early childhood development at the Bank," Reema Nayar, Practice Manager in the Latin America and Caribbean Unit of the Education Global Practice of the World Bank, said at the [launch event](#).



SIEF researchers make the news

SIEF researchers Sally Grantham-McGregor, Paul Gertler and Marta Rubio Codina were [interviewed in Quartz](#) about the growing body of evidence showing that early cognitive stimulation can close the gap between poor children and their wealthier peers. The article draws on evidence from SIEF-funded evaluations in [Jamaica](#), [Colombia](#) and [Bangladesh](#). As Gertler says, "If we want to attack poverty, the place to start is very early in life."

Stephen Luby and Amy Pickering, whose SIEF-funded evaluation is examining a new [inexpensive water chlorination method](#) installed in community hand-pumps in Dhaka, were interviewed for an article on the link between sanitation and stunting for [The Hindu](#) ([see related blog](#)).

In an [article](#) for Nature, SIEF-supported researchers Paul Gertler and Sebastian Galiani argue that the incentives for getting published in top academic journals create resistance to replicating previous studies. "Replication is essential for building confidence in research studies, yet it is still the exception rather than the rule," they wrote, together with colleague Mauricio Romero. Gertler and Galiani are evaluating a [program](#) Nairobi that improves access to water and sanitation.

Emla Fitzsimmons, whose SIEF-funded evaluation examines the effects of a [home-based early childhood development intervention in Colombia](#), told the [Medical Xpress](#) that

substance abuse education in the UK needs to start as early as primary school. Fitzsimmons, a professor at the University College London's Institute of Education and director of the [Millennium Cohort Study](#), which has tracked 19,000 children since they were born in 2000-2001, found that just under half of young people in the UK had tried alcohol by the time they were 14, with more than one in ten confessing to binge drinking.



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