

Reaching people by phone during the pandemic

One of the evaluations that received funding through [SIEF's COVID Emergency Window](#) is examining the impact of text messages to caregivers to encourage them to engage with their children's learning at home in Ghana. The team recently put together a [baseline report](#). This report not only contains the usual information on the study's experimental design, sample, and balance across experimental groups but also describes obstacles the team ran into when trying to reach households by phone and the trouble-shooting required to come up with solutions, from obtaining short codes to deploy text messages to determining optimal times for caregivers to receive messages.



Compiling evidence on parenting programs

This month SIEF introduced the Evidence File, an interactive pdf document that compiles results from multiple SIEF-supported evaluations that test similar interventions. The file is meant to be modular, allowing readers to go directly to the information that might be of greater interest. [Our first Evidence File](#) is on parenting programs that encourage parents to provide in-home stimulation and care to infants and toddlers to improve their cognitive, motor, and social-emotional skills, as well as their nutrition. There is evidence that these programs, when implemented at a small scale by researchers and non-government

organizations, can have a significant impact on children's cognitive and social-emotional development, as well as on their future educational attainment and earnings. The Evidence File presents evidence from 10 evaluations in the SIEF [early childhood development portfolio](#) to assess whether these successes be replicated at scale in low- and middle-income countries.



WHAT IS A PARENTING PROGRAM? WHY IMPLEMENT A PARENTING PROGRAM? RESULTS OF SIEF-SUPPORTED EVALUATIONS WHAT WE LEARNED RESOURCES

EVIDENCE FILE FEBRUARY 2021

Lessons from Parenting Programs in Early Childhood

Parenting programs are early childhood interventions focused on engaging parents to provide in-home stimulation to infants and toddlers with the hope of improving young children's cognitive and motor development, social emotional skills, and overall wellness as they grow. These programs teach parents techniques to stimulate their children's brain and body development through talk, play, and frequent high-quality interactions. Parenting programs are often combined with other public health programs, specifically programs focused on providing nutritional supplementation. There is evidence that parenting programs, when implemented at a small scale by researchers and non-government organizations, can have a significant impact on children's cognitive and social-emotional development outcomes, as well as on their future education and earnings. This brief reviews evidence from the SIEF portfolio to assess whether these successes be replicated at scale in low- and middle-income countries.

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