

■ Purpose of the research project

The Center for Early Childhood Development, Education, and Policy Research (Cedep) attached to the Graduate School of Education at the University of Tokyo and Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute (BERD) have worked together on the project to study children's everyday life and development longitudinally. This project is to elucidate how children's life and guardians' parenting change as children grow by surveying the various aspects of them over multiple years. We aim to consider better involvement with children and how support for parenting should be based on the survey results.

■ Features of the research project

1. This enables us to understand the “present” of children's everyday life and development and guardians' parenting.

In this project, we continue to conduct yearly surveys on guardians who have children born in AY2016 (monitors). We can find out the “present” aspects of children's everyday life and development and guardians' parenting through these surveys.

2. This enables us to understand the “process” and “causality” of children's growth and development.

This project enable us to find out the “process” and “causality” of the growth and development of parents and children, such as how children grow and develop every year, and how guardians' involvement and attitudes change or affect children's growth/development.

3. This enables us to understand a wide range of maternal/paternal awareness and parenting behaviors in detail.

We distributed questionnaires to households and requested two guardians for each household (mainly mother and father) to fill in the questionnaire. Thus, we can grasp similarities and differences in parenting behaviors or awareness for children/parenting between mothers and fathers and change in such behaviors or awareness extensively and elucidate the influence of marital relationship on children's growth and development.

■ Members of the research project

Kiyomi Akita	Professor, Dean of the Graduate School of Education, the University of Tokyo
Toshihiko Endo	Professor, Director of Cedep, the University of Tokyo
Sachiko Nozawa	Associate professor, Cedep, the University of Tokyo
Kaoru Sato	Professor, Institute of Social Science, the University of Tokyo
Akihito Shimazu	Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University
Yasuhiro Kozaki	Associate professor, Faculty of Education, Osaka Kyoiku University
Satoshi Usami	Associate professor, Center for Research and Development on Transition from Secondary to Higher Education, the University of Tokyo
Keisuke Okubo	Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of Education, the University of Tokyo
Yinqi Tang	Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of Education, the University of Tokyo
Kazunari Taniyama	General Manager at Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute
Haruo Kimura	Principal Researcher at Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute
Junko Takaoka	Principal Researcher, General Manager of Center for Child Life and Learning Research, Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute
Satoshi Okabe	Senior Researcher at Center for Child Life and Learning Research, Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute
Seiko Mochida	Senior Researcher at Center for Child Life and Learning Research, Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute
Mieko Sanada	Senior Researcher at Center for Child Life and Learning Research, Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute
Jiwon Lee	Researcher at Center for Child Life and Learning Research, Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute

Outline of the Japanese Longitudinal Study of Early Childhood Development and Parenting 2018

- **Method:** Mail method (self-reporting questionnaire survey)
- **Period:** From September to October 2018
- **Survey subjects:** 3,021 households that have children born between April 2, 2016 and April 1, 2017 (monitors)

Number of mailed questionnaires		Valid respondents	Response rate
3,021	Primary caregiver	2,554 (of which, mothers totaled 2,480)	84.5 %
	Secondary caregiver	2,390 (of which, fathers totaled 2,221)	79.1 %

‡ The questionnaires were distributed to households serving as monitors for the research project. During the period from July to August 2017, we recruited the monitors from among prospective monitors who were sampled from the list of nationwide children aged applicable months according to the birth rate in seven regions across the country (from “Vital Statistics for FY2016” published by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan).

‡ We requested a child’s “primary caregiver” and “secondary caregiver” for each household to respond to the survey (response given only by “primary caregiver” was allowed). We had respondents determine who should be named as “primary caregiver” and “secondary caregiver.”

‡ We excluded a part of Hokkaido and a part of Okayama and Hiroshima from mailing of questionnaire (160 households) because the Disaster Relief Act had been applied to these areas at the time of the survey.

‡ The age of children surveyed ranged from 18 months to 29 months at the time of the survey.

Reference) Attributes of “primary caregiver” and “secondary caregiver” (from the viewpoint of a child)

		Secondary caregiver							Total
		Mother	Father	Grandmother	Grandfather	Others	NA/unknown	Uncollected	
Primary caregiver	Mother	0	2,209	76	4	1	30	160	2,480
	Father	50	0	0	0	1	0	2	53
	Grandmother	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Grandfather	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	NA/unknown	3	12	1	0	0	0	2	18
Total		56	2,221	77	4	2	30	164	2,554

‡ In this booklet, for the purpose of tracking the changes in the development and life of the same child, we report about households which responded to both surveys of the Japanese Longitudinal Study of Early Childhood Development and Parenting 2017 and 2018—households in which primary caregiver is mother and that accounted for most of households surveyed. Of 2,480 mothers in the above table, 2,409 responded to, and of 2,221 fathers in the above table, 2,038 responded to the 2017 survey, too.

- **Regions surveyed:** All regions of the country
- **Major survey items:** Disposition of the child, attachment, development, living hours, lessons for the child, nurturing behavior of a caregiver, caregiver’s relationship with spouse, distribution of housework/parenting, reliable person for parenting, feeling of happiness, depression, burden resulting from housework/parenting, childcare environment, measures for parenting, system at workplace, reasons for working outside the home, reasons for not working outside the home, and the like
- **Points to remember in reading data**
 - (1) The numbers within () in the following figures indicate the number of samples.
 - (2) The percentages (%) showed in the following charts are indicated to one decimal place rounded from two decimals. Percentages may not always add up to 100.0% as a result of rounding off.
 - (3) As questions about children’s life/development and household annual income were asked to “primary caregiver,” we have analyzed the answers of mothers (we set out “answers of mothers” in charts to make it clear).

* We have conducted this survey after obtaining an ethical review approval from the Ethics Committee of the University of Tokyo’s Life Science Committee.

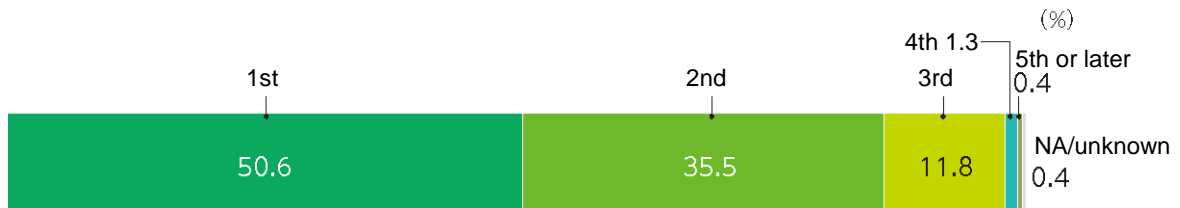
Basic Attributes (children, households)

Gender of the child



‡ Answers of mothers

Birth order of the child



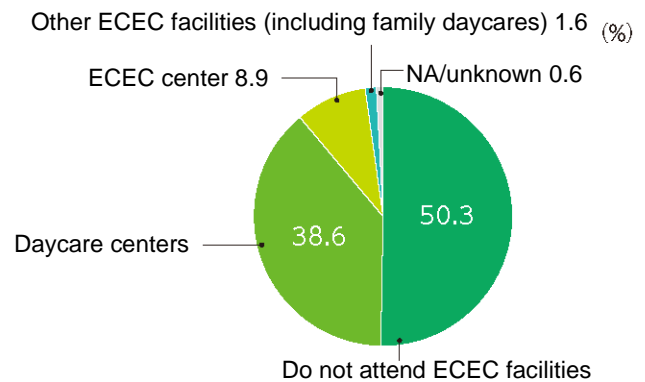
‡ Answers of mothers

Age in months of children (at the time of the survey)

Age (months)	Percentage (%)
18 months	8.2
19 months	6.3
20 months	8.6
21 months	9.1
22 months	8.5
23 months	10.3
24 months	9.1
25 months	8.9
26 months	8.5
27 months	7.8
28 months	7.3
29 months	7.3

‡ Answers of mothers

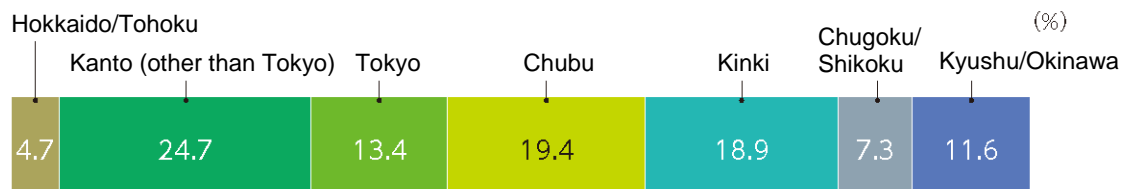
Children's attendance in ECEC facilities



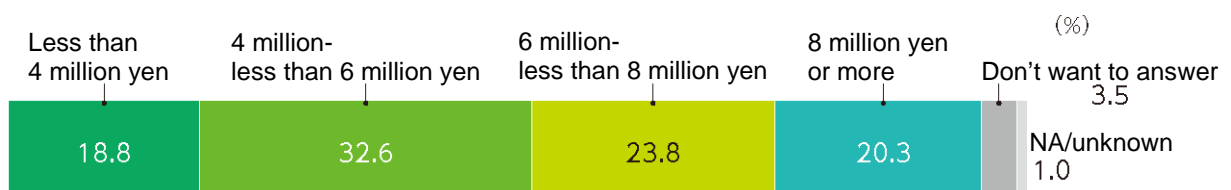
‡ Answers of mothers

‡ Daycare centers include non-licensed childcare facilities and small-scale childcare rooms.

Region where the household resides



Household annual income

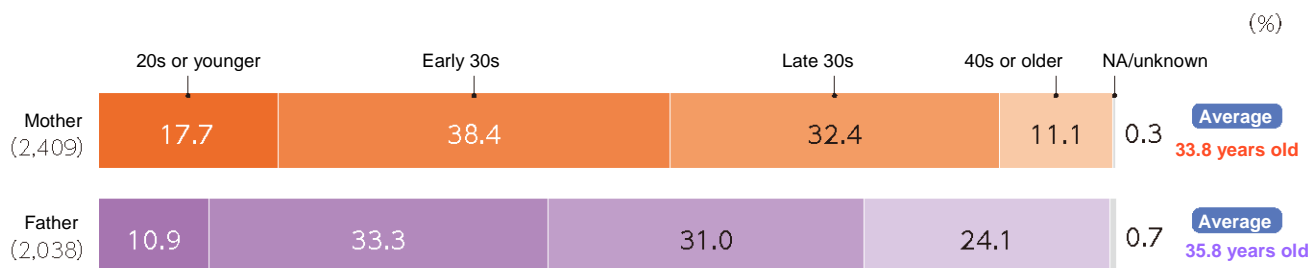


‡ Answers of mothers

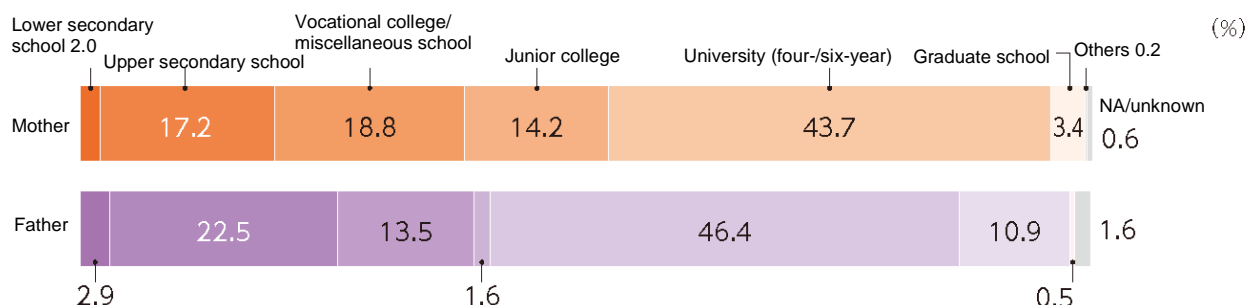
‡ We grouped the responses of "less than 2 million yen," "2 million-less than 3 million yen," and "3 million-less than 4 million yen" together as "less than 4 million yen," and grouped the responses of "4 million-less than 5 million yen" and "5 million-less than 6 million yen" as "4 million-less than 6 million yen," and grouped the responses of "8 million-less than 10 million yen," "10 million-less than 15 million yen," "15 million-less than 20 million yen," and "20 million yen or more" as "8 million yen or more."

Basic Attributes (mother, father)

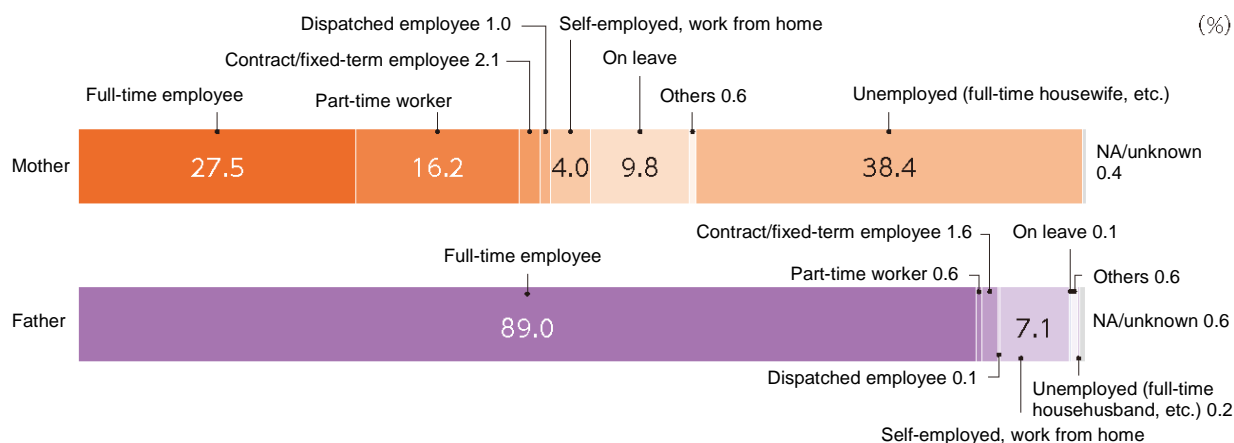
Age



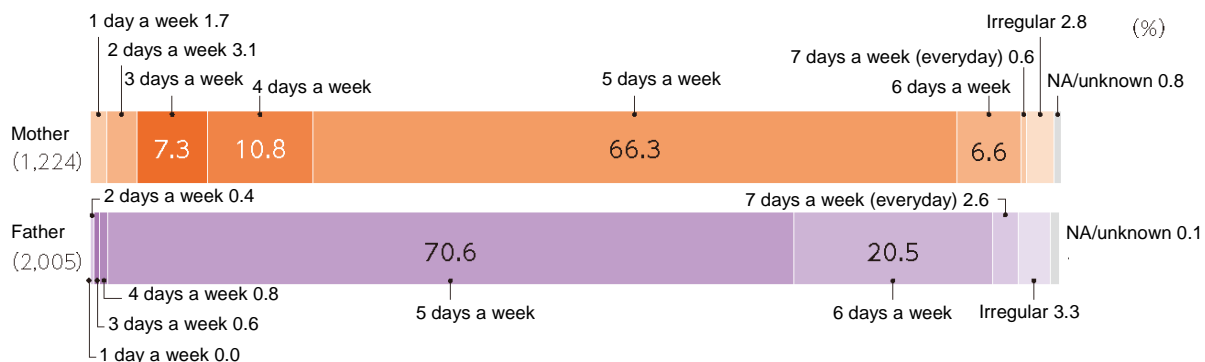
Final academic background



Employment status



Working days per week (those with jobs)



‡ Answers of those with jobs, excluding those who were "on leave," "non-employed," or classified to "others."