

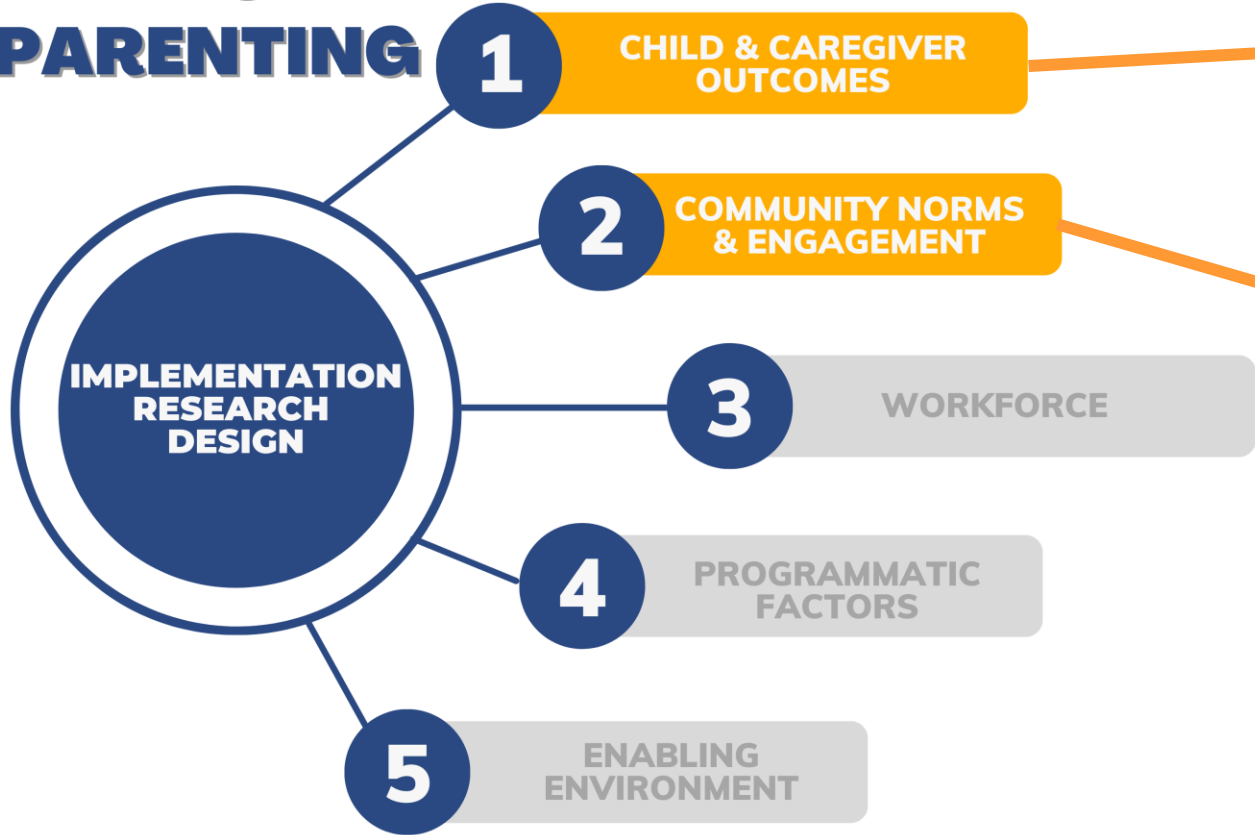
Caregiver Beliefs and Practices on Play

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PLAYFUL PARENTING



Caregiver-Child Observation and Interview

FGD with caregivers of young children

Research on Implementation

The goal of the parenting programs implemented in the four countries was to improve parenting practices around play with children under 3 years of age. Increases in stimulating play, including playthings and communication, were intended to improve children's mental development.

Two methodologies were used before programs were implemented:

1. FGD with caregivers in the communities to understand their initial beliefs on the importance of play,
2. Collect caregiver data on practices related to play and the provision of playthings

Caregiver Beliefs about Play

- **6 to 10 FGDs in each country**
 - Bhutan
 - Rwanda
 - Serbia
 - Zambia
- Half mothers; half fathers
- 8 participants per group

Method of Analysis

1. Country investigators created a summary of findings
2. Content analysis using Dedoose, based on a coding framework
 - 71% to 79% overlap with main researcher
 - dropped infrequent codes, merged conceptually similar ones

Findings from two methods converged

Question. What important things should be provided children (0-3) for healthy (mental) development? By whom and at what ages?

Provisions	Zambia
Food	24
Health & Hygiene	10
Play (playthings)	18 (17)
Talk with child	10
Love	0
Give attention	0
Social life with peers	1
Motor activities (walk)	3
Total codings	59

Play consisted of: “you need to put stones in a bottle and make sounds so that the child’s mind can start developing. So that the child can be curious and wonder what is this?” [Chalo, Petauke, mothers]

Summary of Caregiver beliefs about play

- All caregiver reported some beliefs about the importance of play for the mental development of children under 3 years
- We had probe more to get information about provisions for mental development
- Caregivers gave priority to nutrition and health

Caregiver Practices around Play

METHOD included use of the 45-item HOME Inventory (Home Observation Measurement of the Environment)

The HOME Inventory covers aspects of home life that reflect the *quantity and quality of stimulation* available to the child. Points are awarded for stimulating activities reported by the caregiver and playthings observed by an assessor. Mother-child interactions are also observed, for a total possible of 45 points.

Zambian sample of caregivers at baseline

District	Number of HH	Age of child	% visited by CHV	HOME Inventory 45 items			
				Mean	SD	Min	Max
Katete	340	15.3	54%	30.34	5.377	16	41
Petauke	339	15.0	39%	25.52	5.357	13	41
Chipata	223	14.96	2%	26.31	5.549	13	41
Chongwe	114	13.86	5%	24.44	4.857	13	38

Zambian caregivers' reports on children's play activities

Question	% answering YES	
	Katete	Chipata
	4. Does your child have playmates?	92.1
9. In the past week, did you look at pictures in a book, calendar, magazine together with the child?	17.3	20.6
10. In the past week, did you tell your child a story?	19.8	12.9
12. Did you show or teach your child something new this past week, like teach a new word, or help child do something difficult?	58.8	39.0
13. Does your child play any structured games with people?	68.8	71.7
27. Does your child have a place to keep toys?	23.5	18.8

- Most children have playmates and play structured games.
- Katete mothers were more likely to teach something new.
- Most families scored low on looking at pictures, telling stories, and having a designated place for playthings, but Katete was slightly higher

Zambian homes where playthings were observed

- Katete had many more playthings for the child
- Problematic that more children did not have complex eye-hand coordination toys, where 2 or more things are put together

Play materials observed at home	% of homes	
	Katete	Chipata
	Gross motor objects	64.12
Any toy with wheels	52.35	19.73
Dramatic or pretend play materials	62.94	39.91
Simple eye-hand coordination	71.76	64.57
Complex eye-hand coordination	47.35	43.5
Picture book	11.18	5.38
Materials slightly difficult for child	24.41	13.9
New toy/play item in past week	33.24	7.62

Zambian caregivers' reports on children's play activities: Baseline/Endline comparison

Question	BASELINE		ENDLINE	
	% <u>answering</u> YES		% <u>answering</u> YES	
	Program	Control	Program	Control
4. Does your child have playmates?	91.11	87.16	99.43	98.50
9. In the past week, did you look at pictures in a book, calendar, magazine together with the child?	21.63	18.21	27.46	25.19
10. In the past week, did you tell your child a story?	18.85	14.68	26.05	22.81
12. Did you show or teach your child something new this past week, like teach a new word, or help child do something difficult?	58.67	44.78	63.45	57.30
13. Does your child play any structured games with people?	65.78	61.19	88.45	88.76

Patterns in CBV visits in program and control areas

- % of households who report receiving a CBV visit has remained relatively unchanged for the treatment group. 22% of Control households received visits from a nutrition organization.

	Baseline	Endline
<i>Treatment</i>	45%	51%
<i>Control</i>	3%	22%

- Reach of the program is not increasing even in treatment sites. More Community-based Volunteers need to be trained to scale up in the two treatment districts.

Key Takeaways



Caregiver beliefs and practices on Play

- **Zambian caregivers' beliefs about play were secondary to the importance they attributed to nutrition and health. Both have relatively high levels of infection and stunting.**
- **The data pointed to aspects of play to be addressed by the Playful Parenting programs:**
 - Encouraging parents to providing pictures to talk about with children
 - Encouraging parents to provide more complex eye-hand coordination playthings
 - Encouraging parents to provide new playthings as children age, and a designated place for children to keep playthings

**Thank you for your
attention**