**ONS new data on time use and parenting in lockdown**

22 July 2020

**Parents spent more time on childcare during lockdown**

* Parents spent more time on childcare during lockdown and childcare responsibilities were a big cause of disruption for working parents.

* Parents were twice as likely to be furloughed (13.6%) as those without children (7.2%).

*Time spent on childcare increased for parents and caused work disruption for many working parents.*

**Type of childcare changed – more ‘developmental’ childcare delivered**

* Parents spent more hours on developmental childcare (such as helping with school work, reading) than on things like dressing their children or taking them to school (non-developmental childcare).
* Time spent on non-development childcare fell by a third during lockdown, which includes getting ready for school and going out for recreation (56 to 38 minutes a day).
* The amount of time devoted to developmental childcare (e.g. helping with homework and homeschooling) increased 169% from 24 to 64 minutes a day.

*Lockdown introduced a reversal of time spent on childcare types: more hours were devoted to developmental activities than non-developmental activities.*

**Fathers doing more of the ‘enjoyable’ childcare**

* Parents rate developmental childcare more enjoyable than non-developmental childcare.
* Fathers are more likely to spend time on developmental than non-development childcare.

*Parents rate time spent homeschooling and reading with their children (developmental childcare) as more enjoyable than feeding or supervising them (non-developmental childcare). Fathers were doing more of the fun part of raising children during lockdown.*

**Mothers still doing the majority of childcare – especially for younger children**

* During lockdown, women were spending two-thirds more time on childcare than men, with much of this focused on non-developmental childcare and supervising children.
* The more enjoyable parts of childcare, a rated by parents (e.g. reading, helping with homework), are more equally shared between mothers and fathers.
* Women supplied a larger part of childcare for children aged under five: 78% more childcare than men. In households with children over 5, women do 20% more childcare.
* Housework, the least enjoyable activity as rated by both women and men, continues to be done overwhelmingly by women.

*The larger differential in who provides care for younger children may be because younger children require more non-development childcare such as washing, feeding and cuddling, that tends to be provided by the mother.*