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Impact evaluation of the “Crecer Jugando” parenting program

Submission date
15/05/2026

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
27/05/2026

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
27/05/2026

Condition category
Other

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] Individual participant data
[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol
Background and study aims
Early childhood is a critical period for cognitive, emotional and social development. Parenting programmes that promote positive caregiver–child interactions through play and responsive caregiving have shown potential to support children's development and family wellbeing. Crecer Jugando is a parenting programme designed to strengthen caregivers' abilities to interact with young children through play, communication and emotional support. The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of the Crecer Jugando programme on caregiver–child interaction, parenting practices and early childhood development outcomes.

Who can participate?
Caregiver–child dyads living in the communities where the programme was implemented could participate in the study. The caregiver had to be of legal age and the child had to be between 0 and 48 months. Participation in the study was voluntary.

What does the study involve?
Families who agreed to participate were randomly assigned to one of two groups. One group participated in the Crecer Jugando programme, which consisted of weekly group sessions designed to strengthen parenting skills and promote positive interactions between caregivers and children through play and guided reflection. The other group did not participate in the programme during the study period. All participating families completed surveys and assessments before the programme began and again after it ended. These assessments measured parenting practices, caregiver–child interaction and children's development.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Participants in the intervention group could benefit from learning strategies to support their children's development and strengthen their relationship with their child. The study also contributed to generating evidence about programmes that support families and young children. The risks associated with participation were minimal and mainly related to the time required to attend sessions or complete assessments.

Where is the study run from?
The study was conducted in Chile. The Crecer Jugando programme was implemented by Infancia

Primero, and the evaluation was designed and carried out by Estudios y Consultorías Focus. The study took place in the municipalities of El Bosque, Melipilla, Quinta Normal, Limache, Concepción, Maule, Monte Patria, and Río Negro.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
The study started in 2024 and ran until 2025, including programme implementation and follow-up assessments.

Who is funding the study?
1. The evaluation was conducted under the EDU-LAC Impact Fund, an initiative led by SUMMA in partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation and the BHP Foundation to generate evidence on innovative educational interventions in Latin America.
2. Fundación Angelini
3. Fundación Colunga
4. Fundación Huella
5. Fundación Viento Sur
6. Fundación Ilumina
7. Fundación Olivo.

Who is the main contact?
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
CJ-IPFOCUS-2025

Study information

Scientific Title
Impact evaluation of the Crecer Jugando early childhood parenting program on caregiver–child interaction and child development: a randomized controlled trial in Chile

Acronym
CJ-RCT

Study objectives
1. To estimate the causal impact of the Crecer Jugando parenting programme on caregiver–child interaction.
2. To evaluate effects on early childhood development outcomes.
3. To assess changes in parenting practices, parental stress and social support.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 26/02/2024, Alberto Hurtado University Ethics Committee (Avda. Bernardo O'Higgins 1825, Santiago de Chile, 8340576, Chile; -; comiteetica@uahurtado.cl), ref: -

Primary study design
Interventional

Allocation
Randomized controlled trial

Masking
Blinded (masking used)

Control
Active

Assignment
Parallel

Purpose
Supportive care

Study type(s)
Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Early childhood development and caregiver–child interaction quality

Interventions
This is a multicentre interventional randomised controlled trial with parallel-group design, 1:1 allocation ratio, active waitlist control, and partial masking (blinded outcome assessment for PICCOLO instrument only).

Caregiver–child dyads are randomly assigned using a computer-generated sequence stratified by municipality and intervention cycle, with a 1:1 allocation ratio, to either a treatment group or an active waitlist control group. The treatment group receives the Crecer Jugando parenting programme, consisting of 10 weekly group sessions of approximately 90 minutes each, delivered in face-to-face or remote (Zoom) format, focused on strengthening parenting skills and promoting positive caregiver–child interaction through play-based activities and guided reflection. Participants also receive educational resources via a WhatsApp community forum throughout the 10-week cycle. The control group is placed on an active waitlist and receives no programme materials or sessions during the intervention period. Data are collected at baseline and post-intervention follow-up using standardised instruments measuring parenting practices (E2P), caregiver–child interaction (PICCOLO), child development (ASQ-3), and parental stress (PSI-4-SF).

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
1. Caregiver–child interaction quality measured using the Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes (PICCOLO) at baseline and post-intervention follow-up

2. Child development measured using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition (ASQ-3) at baseline and post-intervention follow-up

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Parenting skills measured using the Escala de Parentalidad Positiva (E2P v.2) at baseline and post-intervention follow-up

2. Parental stress measured using the Parenting Stress Index, Fourth Edition Short Form (PSI-4-SF) at baseline and post-intervention follow-up

Completion date
15/02/2025

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Caregiver–child dyads with children aged 0–48 months
2. The primary caregiver is of legal age (18 years or older)
3. The caregiver is the primary caregiver of the child
4. Caregivers residing in one of the eight implementing municipalities
5. Caregivers linked to services implementing the Crecer Jugando programme
6. Caregivers willing to participate in the evaluation and complete study instruments

Participant type(s)
Carer, Healthy volunteer

Healthy volunteers allowed
Yes

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
0 Months

Upper age limit
48 Months

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
600

Key exclusion criteria
1. Caregivers who are not the primary caregiver of the child
2. Children older than 48 months at enrolment
3. Participants who do not provide informed consent
4. Families who had previously participated in a Crecer Jugando programme cycle
5. Families receiving a similar parenting intervention concurrently
6. Infants with a diagnosis of severe disability preventing the use of psychomotor development scales (ASQ-3)

Date of first enrolment
01/03/2024

Date of final enrolment

15/11/2024

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Chile

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de Concepción
Av. O'Higgins 525, Concepción
Concepción
Chile
4030615.

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de El Bosque
Av. Alejandro Guzmán 735, El Bosque
Santiago de Chile
Chile
8010620

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de Limache
Av. Palmira Romano Sur 340, Limache
Limache
Chile
6520000

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de Maule
Av. Balmaceda 450, Maule
Talca
Chile
3530000

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de Melipilla
Silva Chávez 480, Melipilla
Melipilla
Chile
9580196

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de Monte Patria
Diaguitas 31, Monte Patria
Ovalle
Chile
1840000

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de Quinta Normal
Av. Carrascal 4447, Quinta Normal
Santiago de Chile
Chile
8500643

Study participating centre
Municipalidad de Río Negro
Vicuña Mackenna 170, Río Negro
Osorno
Chile
5300000

Sponsor information

Organisation
Focus Consulting

Organisation
Childhood First Foundation (Fundación Infancia Primero)

Funder(s)

Funder type
Not defined

Funder Name

SUMMA

Funder Name
Fundación Angelini

Funder Name
Fundación Colunga

Funder Name
Fundación Huella

Funder Name
Fundación Viento Sur

Funder Name
Fundación Ilumina

Funder Name
Fundación Olivo

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
Data shared upon reasonable request will include anonymised participant-level data used in the analyses. Data will be available following publication of the results. Access will be granted to researchers for academic and research purposes only. All data were anonymised prior to analysis in accordance with the ethics approval granted by the Ethics Committee of Alberto Hurtado University. Informed consent was obtained from all participants.

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request, Published as a supplement to the results publication