**Supplementary materials**

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| Table A |
| **Variable name** | **Coding** | **Additional notes** |
| Child’s sex | 1=Male2=Female |  |
| Child’s age in months | Numeric |  |
| Language | 1=Afrikaans2=SA English |  |
| Area | 1=Rural2=Urban |  |
| Mother primary caregiver | 1=Yes0=No | Score of 1 if the mother is declared to be the only primary caregiver |
| Creche attendance | 1=Yes0=No |  |
| Total number of adults in household | Numeric |  |
| Father presence | 1=Yes0=No |  |
| Grandparent presence | 1=Yes0=No |  |
| Other family members presence | 1=Yes0=No |  |
| Nuclear family    | 1=Yes0=No | Score of 1 if only the parents and their children are present in the household. No other people or family members present |
| Older children in household | Numeric |  |
| Total number of people in household | Total number of adults in household + Total number of children in household |  |
| Rooms for sleeping | Numeric |  |
| People by bedroom | Total number of people in household/Rooms for sleeping |  |
| Mother's age at birth | 1=20 years old or younger2=21 to 25 years old3=26 to 30 years old4=31 to 35 years old5=36 to 39 years old6=40+ years oldna=Don't know |  |
| First born | 1=Yes0=No |  |
| Mother's level of education | 0=No formal education1=Primary school incomplete2=Completed primary school3=High school incomplete4=Completed high school5=Studied beyond high schoolna=Don't know |  |
| Mother employment | 1=Not working2=Employed3=Self-employed (without employees)4=Self-employed (with employees)na=Don't know |  |
| Father employment | 1=Not working2=Employed3=Self-employed (without employees)4=Self-employed (with employees)na=Don't know |  |
| Household income | 0=no income1=R1 – R6002=R601 – R1 2003=R1 201 – R2 4004=R2 401 – R5 0005=R5 001 – R10 0006=R10 001 – R20 0007=R20 001 – R40 0008=R40 001 – R80 0009=R80 001 – R150 00010=R150 001 – R300 00011=R300 001 or morena=Don't know |  |
| Grocery expenditure | 0=none1=R1 – R6002=R601 – R1 2003=R1 201 – R2 0004=R2 001 – R3 0005=R3 001 – R5 0006=R5 001 – R8 0007=R8 001 – R12 0008=R12 001 or morena=Don't know |  |
| Total grammar | 0-181 | Afrikaans CDI Toddler form |
| Total grammar | 0-188 | SA English CDI Toddler form |
| Word combinations | 0=Not yet1=Sometimes2=Often | CDI Toddler form |
| Complex phrases | 0-96 | Afrikaans CDI Toddler form |
| Complex phrases | 0-74 | SA English CDI Toddler form |



*Figure A*. Optimal number of clusters.