**Supplementary materials**

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| Table A | | |
| **Variable name** | **Coding** | **Additional notes** |
| Child’s sex | 1=Male 2=Female |  |
| Child’s age in months | Numeric |  |
| Language | 1=Afrikaans  2=SA English |  |
| Area | 1=Rural 2=Urban |  |
| Mother primary caregiver | 1=Yes 0=No | Score of 1 if the mother is declared to be the only primary caregiver |
| Creche attendance | 1=Yes 0=No |  |
| Total number of adults in household | Numeric |  |
| Father presence | 1=Yes 0=No |  |
| Grandparent presence | 1=Yes 0=No |  |
| Other family members presence | 1=Yes 0=No |  |
| Nuclear family | 1=Yes 0=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 younger 2=21 to 25 years old 3=26 to 30 years old 4=31 to 35 years old 5=36 to 39 years old 6=40+ years old na=Don't know |  |
| First born | 1=Yes 0=No |  |
| Mother's level of education | 0=No formal education 1=Primary school incomplete 2=Completed primary school 3=High school incomplete 4=Completed high school 5=Studied beyond high school na=Don't know |  |
| Mother employment | 1=Not working 2=Employed 3=Self-employed (without employees) 4=Self-employed (with employees) na=Don't know |  |
| Father employment | 1=Not working 2=Employed 3=Self-employed (without employees) 4=Self-employed (with employees) na=Don't know |  |
| Household income | 0=no income 1=R1 – R600 2=R601 – R1 200 3=R1 201 – R2 400 4=R2 401 – R5 000 5=R5 001 – R10 000 6=R10 001 – R20 000 7=R20 001 – R40 000 8=R40 001 – R80 000 9=R80 001 – R150 000 10=R150 001 – R300 000 11=R300 001 or more na=Don't know |  |
| Grocery expenditure | 0=none 1=R1 – R600 2=R601 – R1 200 3=R1 201 – R2 000 4=R2 001 – R3 000 5=R3 001 – R5 000 6=R5 001 – R8 000 7=R8 001 – R12 000 8=R12 001 or more na=Don't know |  |
| Total grammar | 0-181 | Afrikaans CDI Toddler form |
| Total grammar | 0-188 | SA English CDI Toddler form |
| Word combinations | 0=Not yet 1=Sometimes 2=Often | CDI Toddler form |
| Complex phrases | 0-96 | Afrikaans CDI Toddler form |
| Complex phrases | 0-74 | SA English CDI Toddler form |

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

*Figure A*. Optimal number of clusters.