

**Title:** *Time devoted to child care*

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Using the 1998 survey of use of time for France, we aim at studying the time devoted to child care. We first describe the amount and timing of the tasks required by child care, and then propose a measure of the time cost of children. A problem of all of these measures is that it is difficult to assess what this means for the well-being of the couple: we need a criterion of welfare, that enables us to compare couples with and without children, in a constrained world. This criterion is here the couple's personal time (physiological plus leisure) when both spouses are working in the market. Using selection bias techniques, we then compute the time cost of children according to the occupation of the mother. We find that this cost is around 50mn per day and per child aged 6-14, and increases by one and a half hour for younger children. This analysis is calibrated to take account of the gender of the parents refined : a wife in the labor force with 2 children has only 8 hours per day for herself, whereas for a full time housewife, available time for self is much higher and does not depend on the number of children.