

## Featured evaluation

In Ghana, two years of preprimary education, known as kindergarten, is required but the quality of both government-run and private schools aimed at low-income families is poor. Parents also tend to assess kindergarten quality based on physical infrastructure rather than whether classroom practices are developmentally-appropriate, and they rarely engage with school staff. A government-supported pilot program sought to improve quality through teacher training and coaching and special meetings for parents.



A SIEF-supported impact evaluation found that at the end of the school year, both the teacher training program and the training program combined with the parental awareness campaign increased the number of developmentally appropriate activities teachers were doing in the classroom. But only children in the schools that received the teacher training program experienced improvements in school readiness, as measured by scores for early literacy, early numeracy, and social-emotional skills. This suggests that involving parents counteracted the effects of teacher training, something that researchers are investigating further. Both programs led to a sizable reduction in teacher turnover in the first year, particularly in private schools. The next school year, the teachers who received the training programs were still engaging in some of the classroom activities that they had learned during training, but the gains children had made in early literacy and early numeracy completely faded out. Children of teachers who had received only the training program, however, still showed higher social-emotional skills than children in the control group.

Read more [here](#).

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### SIEF researchers in the news

Education has long been notoriously slow to change. But as the World Bank's education lead [Harry Patrinos](#) told [Devex](#) at the Global Education & Skills Forum in Dubai, "the race is now being led by technology, and education is having trouble keeping up." Patrinos is a SIEF researcher on [an evaluation looking](#) at the impacts of on student learning of a different education model used by a private school in Mexico aimed at low-income students.

Jumana Qamruddin, a World Bank senior health specialist in the Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice and a SIEF researcher, discussed with [ReliefWeb](#) the program she is leading in Madagascar to reduce chronic malnutrition. The program includes an [impact evaluation](#), in which Qamruddin is involved.

