



TwinLife

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***TwinLife* survey methodology and fieldwork outcomes**

K2ID Supplementary Survey

V1.0.0

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***TwinLife* survey methodology and fieldwork outcomes: K2ID, v1.0.0**

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1. The K2ID Study

In 2013, the "Education and Family" department at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) commissioned Kantar Public¹ to conduct a study on the quality of daycare centers attended by children from households participating in the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) and the "Families in Germany" (FiD) study (Round 1), as well as those in the SOEP migration (SOEP-M) sample (Round 2). In 2015 and 2016, the study was expanded to include a third round, conducted in collaboration with Bielefeld University. This round focused on children from families in the "TwinLife" study. Data collection for this phase, formally titled the *K2ID-Twins Study: Early Childhood Education and Care Quality and Child Development of Twins (TwinLife-ECEC Quality)* (Project No. 2014-11-23), was funded by the Jacobs Foundation.

The "TwinLife" project, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), investigates the genetic and social roots of inequality. It follows around 4,000 families with identical or fraternal twins. For the "TwinLife-ECEC Quality" study, parents (or stepparents) of twins from the youngest cohort (born in 2009/10) were asked during the first Face-to-Face (F2F) wave in the TwinLife main survey to provide the name and address of the daycare center their children attended, along with the name(s) of their specific group(s). As this address collection was conducted under the main TwinLife project, this methodological report focuses specifically on the daycare center survey conducted in Round 3.

2. Survey Implementation

Fieldwork for the K2ID-Twins Study was conducted in two sub-rounds 3a and 3b between March 2015 and September 2016. Daycare centers were invited to participate via a 15-page postal questionnaire addressed to both the center's director and the relevant head(s) of the group. Directors were also contacted by telephone over several months by a team of educational science students with hands-on experience in childcare settings. These student assistants were trained specifically for the study and encouraged participation. If the full-length questionnaire proved to be too time-consuming, directors could opt for a shorter, 4-page version, either by phone or post.

The daycare center addresses used in the survey were collected as part of the TwinLife main survey. In the first TwinLife F2F wave, parents provided this information via a PAPI questionnaire. The initial mailing of questionnaires for Round 3a began in March 2015. From that point, centers were contacted by phone by trained student assistants to offer support and answer questions. Based on the success of this method in Round 1, centers were contacted within 1–2 weeks after the initial mailing. To manage workload and align with data availability, the mailings were staggered every two weeks from February

¹ Note: Chapters 1 to 5 are based on the unpublished German methodological report by Daniel, G., Zweck, B., & Glemser, A. (2017). *Kinder und Kitas in Deutschland (K2ID): Kita Erhebung TwinLife. Methodenbericht* (Unpublished Report No. 315.107923). Kantar Public – SOEP Department, Kantar Germany GmbH, Munich.

onward. Round 3b began in January 2016 with similar mailing and support procedures, and here the telephone outreach resumed in February.

Each daycare center received two versions of the questionnaire: one for the director and one (or more) for heads of the group, depending on how many TwinLife children attended the facility. A shorter 4-page version—containing key questions—was used for telephone interviews with directors who couldn't complete the full version.

3. Field Materials and Incentives

As the daycare center survey was planned as a written postal survey, the daycare centers initially received a cover letter with the 15-page questionnaire for the directors and one or more questionnaires for the heads of the group, along with a request to complete and return them to Kantar Public in the enclosed postage-paid envelopes. The number of group questionnaires depended on how many children from families in the “TwinLife” study attended the facility.

The letter was also accompanied by a 3-page folded brochure in C4 format and an information sheet on data protection. These materials explained how the collected data would be handled and how it would be linked with the data from “TwinLife.” However, the name “TwinLife” was not explicitly mentioned to prevent directors from inferring which families had provided the daycare center's contact information.

In addition to introducing the study and outlining its significance, the cover letter used for Round 3 explained the survey procedure, the incentive structure, and data protection policies. It also clarified the origin of the address, both in the letter and in the accompanying brochure. During fieldwork in the earlier K2ID rounds, it had become apparent that some directors had not noticed the brochures, and some questions remained unanswered—particularly regarding the selection process and the source of group information. Therefore, the cover letter also announced that a trained member of the study team would call.

The brochure further introduced the researchers responsible for the study: Prof. Dr. Spieß, Prof. Dr. Anders, and Prof. Dr. Diewald. The incentive structure was also outlined in the cover letter: each completed questionnaire earned the center a €10 voucher from the book and toy retailer Thalia. An additional €10 bonus was awarded if all requested questionnaires were submitted. Thus, a center returning both the director's and the head(s) of group forms could earn up to €30. Thalia was chosen for its relevance to daycare settings and its accessibility both online and in physical stores.

Directors could also opt to receive a summary of the study's key findings after data collection. In Round 3, 93% of directors expressed interest in this summary. Once data from all three rounds were compiled, an informational report was sent to interested centers, thanking them and highlighting the main results.

4. Measures to Increase Participation

Pretesting had shown that relying solely on postal mailings, even with reminders, would not yield adequate response rates. Therefore, additional measures were implemented in Round 3, as in earlier rounds. Beginning in the second month of each sub-round, student assistants with childcare experience were assigned to follow up with designated centers by phone. These students had backgrounds in educational science and, in many cases, professional childcare experience or formal qualifications.

They received tailored training via video calls in early 2015, led by members of the Kantar Public project team. In sub-round 3b, the phone support was provided by a highly experienced assistant who had supported earlier rounds since 2014.

Daycare directors were informed in the cover letter that a member of the study team would call within 1–2 weeks to answer questions and support participation. Follow-up calls continued approximately every four weeks until Kantar Public received the completed questionnaires or conducted a telephone interview. Directors were also offered the option to complete the shorter version by post or over the phone. Participation in the short version earned them an €8 voucher.

Holidays in June and July posed a barrier to participation, so the fieldwork period for Round 3a was extended from the original end date in June 2015 to December 2015, with telephone support ending in November. For Round 3b in 2016, mailings started earlier—in January—to allow more time before the summer break. Fieldwork concluded in September 2016.

Another challenge was obtaining permission from daycare providers. If directors cited this as a hurdle, the Kantar Public team contacted the providers directly—by email and by phone if needed—to explain the study and encourage approval.

5. Survey Instruments

The daycare center survey focused on characteristics of both the daycare center itself and the specific group attended by the child participating in the SOEP, FiD, and TwinLife studies. For this reason, in addition to the questionnaire for the director of the daycare center, a separate questionnaire was developed for the head of the child's group (see Figure 1).

The director questionnaire comprised 15 pages and included 45 questions, divided into five sections. The first section (questions 1–14) covered general information about the facility, such as the provider, opening hours, and the number of children enrolled. The second section (questions 15–27) addressed the building infrastructure and educational practices. It focused on the size and condition of the rooms, the facility's pedagogical approach and priorities, teamwork among staff, and the range of activities offered to children.

The third section (questions 28–31) focused on evaluations of the facility and work. Directors were asked to rate their satisfaction with various aspects of support and care, their general satisfaction with the

facility, and several personal life areas. The fourth section (questions 32–33) collected data on staffing, including the number of employees, their weekly working hours, and their qualifications. The fifth and final section (questions 34–45) asked about the director's demographics and professional background, including career history, working hours, continuing education, and overall life satisfaction.

The questionnaire for the heads of the groups consisted of 40 questions over 15 pages and was divided into six sections. The first section (questions 1–9) addressed group composition, including the number of children, their ages, and their German language proficiency. The second section (questions 10–14) asked about materials and activities, such as the availability of toys, the types of activities offered, and any associated costs for parents.

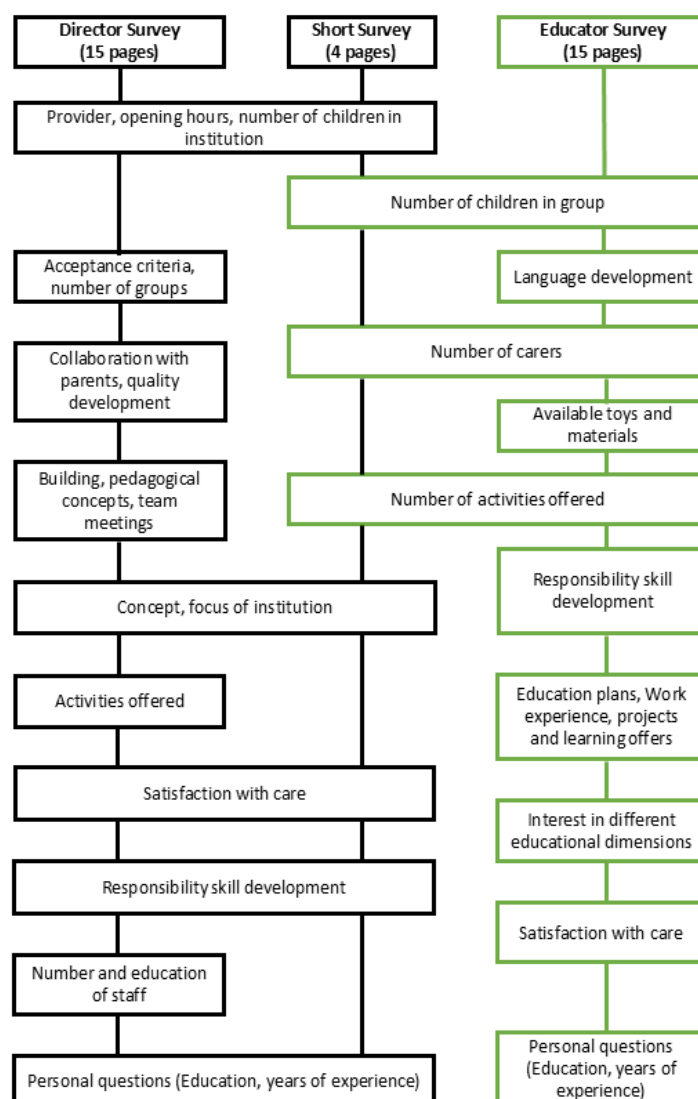


Figure 1: Overview of the survey instruments

The third section (questions 15–17) focused on the head of the group's educational values and priorities, including the promotion of specific child competencies and their personal relationship with the children. The fourth section (questions 18–26) covered pedagogical practices in the group, including the relevance of educational plans, enjoyment of educational work, and satisfaction with support and care

within the facility. The fifth and final section (questions 27–40) collected demographic information about the respondent.

A shorter version of the questionnaire was used for brief telephone interviews and individual postal surveys. This version combined selected questions from both the director and head of group questionnaires. Figure 1 provides an overview of which questions from the two main instruments were included in the short version.

6. Field results

Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of the outcome of the field work based on the final data provided by the field agency. Table 1 shows the participation in the F2F1 care module (Section 1) and the K2ID gross sample for the individuals not screened out in the care module (Section 2). As shown in section 1, 12.61% of respondents of F2F1 participated in the care module, while the majority (84.54%) were screened out due to the filtering of the question. For 2.85% of the respondents, there was a technical error registered in the survey data (e.g. due to non-readable or multiple answers). There are no substantial differences in participation rates between the subsamples (F2F1a and F2F1b). As shown in section 1, 70.61% of the care module participants were included into the K2ID gross sample ($1509/1527=98.82\%$ of the K2ID gross sample). Additionally, the responses of 3.72% of the respondents with technical errors in the care module in the published survey data could be recovered ($18/1527=1.18\%$ of the K2ID gross sample).

Table 1: Participation in F2F1 Care Module and K2ID Gross Sample

Care Module Outcome	Sub-Sample A	Sub-Sample B	Total
Section 1: F2F1 Care Module			
doesn't apply (screened out)	6973 (83.95%)	7358 (85.11%)	14331 (84.54%)
participated	1055 (12.7%)	1082 (12.52%)	2137 (12.61%)
technical error	278 (3.34%)	205 (2.37%)	483 (2.85%)
Total	8306 (100%)	8645 (100%)	16951 (100%)
Section 2: K2ID Gross Sample			
participated	782 (74.12%)	727 (67.19%)	1509 (70.61%)
technical error	9 (3.23%)	9 (4.39%)	18 (3.72%)
Total	791 (9.52%)	736 (8.51%)	1527 (9.01%)

Note: Section 1 shows column percentages (% of total sample). Section 2 shows composition of K2ID gross sample (% of the individuals not screened out in the F2F1 Care Module).

Table 2 shows participation in the K2ID net sample, both at the institutional level and for the twins. In total, with a nonresponse rate of 41.19% for the twins and 40.09% for the institutions, valid net data are available for 58.81% of the twins and 59.91% of the institutions in the gross sample (i.e., in at least one of the three net data sources). Most of the participating twins and institutions provided valid data from the director and educator surveys (36.08% and 35.23%, respectively). Additionally, 11.26% of twins and 12.69% of institutions provided data only through the short survey. The remaining net cases contributed data in other combinations of the available net sources.

Table 2: Participation in the K2ID net sample

K2ID Outcome	Sub-sample A		Sub-sample B		Total	
	N Institutions	N Twins	N Institutions	N Twins	N Institutions	N Twins
Director and Educator	128 (29.63%)	236 (29.84%)	169 (41.12%)	315 (42.8%)	297 (35.23%)	551 (36.08%)
Director only	27 (6.25%)	41 (5.18%)	38 (9.25%)	66 (8.97%)	65 (7.71%)	107 (7.01%)
Educator and Short	1 (0.23%)	2 (0.25%)	3 (0.73%)	5 (0.68%)	4 (0.47%)	7 (0.46%)
Educator only	15 (3.47%)	30 (3.79%)	17 (4.14%)	31 (4.21%)	32 (3.8%)	61 (3.99%)
Short only	61 (14.12%)	100 (12.64%)	46 (11.19%)	72 (9.78%)	107 (12.69%)	172 (11.26%)
Nonresponse	200 (46.3%)	382 (48.29%)	138 (33.58%)	247 (33.56%)	338 (40.09%)	629 (41.19%)
Total	432 (100%)	791 (100%)	411 (100%)	736 (100%)	843 (100%)	1527 (100%)

7. Data Sets

In total, four K2ID data sets will be included from the TwinLife 9.0.0 data release onwards:

- ZA6701_k2id_dir: Contains data from the director survey
- ZA6701_k2id_edu: Contains data from the educator survey
- ZA6701_k2id_short: Contains data from the short survey
- ZA6701_k2id_id: Contains the IDs of the K2ID institutions and of the groups within the institution as well as the SUF family and person ID of the twins to match K2ID data to the rest of the SUF data.