

Time Trade Doesn't Happen:¹
The Determinants of Children's Hours Spent Studying

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Abstract

This research attempts to characterize the tradeoff between time spent in educational activities and time spent in alternatives, such as watching television or playing video games. By taking an advantage of a nationally representative longitudinal dataset, we find the robust evidence of the negative causal relationship between time spent using television/video games and time spent studying. However, because the effect size is quite small to be negligible, watching TV or playing video games do not reduce significant learning hours of a child. In other words, time spent studying appears insensitive to those alternative activities. More surprisingly, time spent studying is greatly affected by mother's commitment to child's study, even after mother's employment status is controlled. This suggests that the direct interplay between parents and children may be a more important determinant of child's time spent studying than an intervention to change the learning environments.

JEL classification codes: I10, I20

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