

## Supplementary Table S1.

Trajectory group characteristics. Bold text indicates  $p < .05^a$

*entered into multinomial logistic regression	<b>1</b> <b>n = 218</b> <b>(14.5%)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>n = 456</b> <b>(30.3%)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>n = 299</b> <b>(19.8%)</b>	<b>4</b> <b>n = 294</b> <b>(19.5%)</b>	<b>5</b> <b>n = 240</b> <b>(15.9%)</b>	<b>Sig</b>
	Low poor	Moderate poor	Improving	Declining	High good	
<b>Child characteristics</b>						
*Child age at entry to care, M (SD)	3.2 (4.4)	3.0 (3.9)	<b>2.4 (3.1)</b>	<b>4.2 (3.9)</b>	<b>4.3 (4.4)</b>	<.001
*Child is Aboriginal, n (%)	<b>107 (49.1)</b>	<b>200 (43.9)</b>	105 (35.1)	111 (37.8)	<b>63 (26.3)</b>	<.001
Child is female, n (%)	95 (50.0)	147 (46.2)	146 (51.6)	137 (50.2)	122 (55.2)	.351
Child is CALD, n (%)	30 (15.8)	44 (13.8)	42 (14.8)	41 (15.0)	31 (14.0)	.976
Atypical <sup>b</sup> socio-emotional development at any wave, n (%)	114 (52.3)	239 (52.5)	128 (42.8)	134 (46.2)	99 (42.0)	.015
*Atypical <sup>b</sup> socio-emotional development at wave 1, n (%)	62 (36.3)	<b>106 (36.1)</b>	<b>62 (24.2)</b>	75 (29.5)	54 (25.1)	.005
Atypical <sup>a</sup> vocab development at any age, n (%)	66 (34.6)	160 (37.1)	88 (34.4)	87 (32.2)	71 (34.5)	.233
<b>Care characteristics</b>						
*Relative/kinship care at W1, n (%)	<b>69 (36.3)</b>	<b>124 (39.0)</b>	<b>112 (39.6)</b>	136 (49.8)	<b>157 (71.0)</b>	<.001
Number of placements, M (SD)	3.8 (2.7)	3.5 (2.2)	3.5 (2.1)	3.7 (2.5)	3.1 (2.2)	.767
*Live with sibling at W1, n (%)	<b>82 (43.2)</b>	190 (59.8)	158 (55.8)	169 (61.9)	<b>152 (68.8)</b>	<.001
<b>Birth family contact</b>						
*Face to face sibling contact, n (%)	<b>74 (39.0)</b>	156 (49.1)	148 (52.3)	136 (50.0)	97 (43.9)	.035
*Unsupervised contact with mother at W1, n (%)	<b>1 (1.6)</b>	<b>9 (3.4)</b>	<b>12 (4.8)</b>	29 (10.8)	<b>41 (18.6)</b>	<.001

Child behaviour problems after contact with mother W1 <sup>c</sup> , M (SD)	3.4 (1.3)	3.5 (1.3)	3.3 (1.3)	2.5 (1.5)	2.5 (1.3)	.250
<b>Risk of harm issues prior to first care period</b>						
Physical abuse, n (%)	35 (16.1)	112 (24.6)	64 (21.4)	72 (24.5)	55 (22.9)	.125
Sexual abuse, n (%)	12 (5.5)	19 (4.2)	11 (3.7)	12 (4.1)	7 (2.9)	.717
Neglect, n (%)	64 (29.4)	122 (26.8)	84 (28.1)	86 (29.3)	55 (22.9)	.475
Emotional abuse, n (%)	23 (10.6)	39 (8.6)	2 (4.0)	28 (9.5)	19 (7.9)	.050
*Domestic violence, n (%)	<b>21 (9.6)</b>	61 (13.4)	40 (13.4)	<b>61 (20.8)</b>	38 (15.8)	.006
*Parent drug/alcohol use, n (%)	155 (71.1)	<b>295 (64.7)</b>	196 (65.6)	213 (72.5)	175 (72.9)	.055
Parent mental health, n (%)	27 (12.4)	46 (10.1)	37 (12.4)	38 (12.9)	42 (17.5)	.096
Child/young people risk, n (%)	0 (0.0)	5 (1.1)	2 (0.7)	4 (1.4)	5 (2.1)	.247
*Prenatal issue, n (%)	2 (0.9)	9 (2.0)	<b>11 (3.7)</b>	4 (1.4)	1 (0.4)	.041
Other, n (%)	1 (0.5)	3 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	.501
<b>Carer characteristics</b>						
Carer interviewed is female at W1	164 (88.2)	281 (90.1)	260 (92.5)	248 (92.5)	195 (91.6)	.430
*Carer 51+ yrs at W1	69 (37.5)	116 (38.0)	<b>86 (30.9)</b>	108 (40.9)	<b>115 (55.0)</b>	<.001
*Carer had poorer mental health at W1, n (%)	43 (23.5)	<b>84 (27.1)</b>	<b>38 (13.9)</b>	59 (22.4)	54 (26.0)	.002
*Carer excellent/very good general health at W1, n (%)	122 (65.6)	<b>184 (59.0)</b>	<b>200 (71.2)</b>	179 (66.8)	135 (63.7)	.036
Emotional responsiveness at W1, M (SD)	22.1 (2.9)	21.1 (3.8)	21.6 (2.9)	21.8 (3.2)	20.7 (3.7)	.105

CALD = Culturally and linguistically diverse. M = Mean. SD = Standard deviation. Note: percentages are of non-missing data, and may not match column totals

<sup>a</sup> indicates that the figure is significantly different from expected. Based on adjusted standardised residuals or postestimation contrasts. *P* values indicate overall difference between group membership and each characteristic.

<sup>b</sup> Based on the Brief Infant-toddler Socio-Emotional Assessment scores for children aged 12–35 months of age at Wave 1, and the Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL) for children aged 3–17 years

° Child behaviour after the most recent contact visit with mother.