

Daycare Choice and Ethnic Diversity: Evidence from a Randomized Survey

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Abstract

We designed a randomized survey to study daycare choices and ethnic diversity. Parents in Copenhagen were asked to choose between two daycares — structured vs. free-play. We provided testimonials from (fictive) parents whose child allegedly attended the institution and randomized the names of the testifying parents across the sample. We find bias against ethnic minorities among parents who prefer the structured institution; this discrimination is likely taste-based rather than statistical. Also, willingness to travel to the preferred daycare is higher for parents who prefer the structured daycare when there was an ethnic minority name associated with the free-play daycare.