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ABSTRACT

In this paper we analyze whether the time spent for child care can be identified for German parents who live in a couple household and what attributes can be used to explain a possible change by applying advanced micro econometric methods to German time use data provided by the German Socio Economic Panel. Compared to numerous papers that have explained the parental time for primary child care solely we consider the dependence between household partners decisions for child care, home production, market work and leisure. Further we account for zero observations of the time use allocations. For that we estimate the parameters of a system of seemingly unrelated non-linear equations using a mixed process regression approach for the years 2005, 2009 and 2013 utilizing the latest version of the German Socio Economic Panel. Besides considering typical demographic and socio-economic influences and compositional- or behavioral effects of intra family changes like varying relationship-, personal- and marital situations or the number and age of children in the household we identify a link between the time spent for

child care and parents individual attitudes like the importance of having children or to live in a well functioning relationship. Further we exploit empirical longitudinal information about specially self-perceived individual characteristics of German parents. So we can assess whether big five personality traits like neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, conscientiousness or agreeableness can additionally used to explain the parental time spent for child care of German households apart the fact that female labour force participation may have increased.