

Nurseries and parents are faced with problems on both sides of the fence ^[1]

An often-overlooked but vital sector is facing huge challenges in the Covid-19 pandemic

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EXCERPTS

After the government closed schools and nurseries on March 20, Yvonne Bowden contacted her son's nursery to ask what would happen with her fees. The single parent in Lewisham, south London, had expected to be made redundant from her job as a content manager at an architecture and design practice, but in fact was, like so many other workers in so many other industries, furloughed. Nevertheless, she knew that 80 per cent of her wage would not stretch to nursery fees of almost £1,000 a month.

The answer she was given came as a surprise, and not a happy one. Ms Bowden was expected to pay full nursery fees to keep her son's place at Young Oaks Day Nursery from April 1.

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