

# COVID-19 Policy and community responses

This section will include news, research and insights from economists, researchers, practitioners, and others that reflect on what has been learned, and what changes need to come next for early learning and child care, and beyond.

We have organized this page into three sections in order to consolidate information

- [Relevant research and policy analysis](#) <sup>[1]</sup>
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Mon, 09/14/2020

## Relevant research and policy analysis

This is a selection of research and policy analysis from economists, researchers, practitioners, and others that reflect on what has been learned, and what changes need to come next for early learning and child care, and beyond. Research and policy analysis is from both Canadian and international sources.

[Economic and fiscal snapshot 2020](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

Department of Finance Canada, August 2020

[Reconceptualizing parental leave benefits in COVID-19 Canada: From employment policy to care and social protection policy](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

University of Toronto Press, 13 August 2020

[Pandemic childcare is way more stressful for moms than dads](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

Live Science, 10 August 2020

[OMEP position paper: Early childhood education and care in the time of COVID-19](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

International Journal of Early Childhood, 3 August 2020

[Investing in children? Privatisation and early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

CPAG Backgrounder, July 2020

[Parents uneasy about sending children to daycare amid COVID-19: StatCan](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

CTV News, 29 July 2020

[The child care crisis disproportionately affects children with disabilities](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

Centre for American Progress, Jan 2020

[Women 'put careers on hold' to home school during UK Covid-19 lockdown](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

The Guardian, 30 July 2020

[The truth about education policy is that it's based on a myth](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

Forbes, 29 July 2020

[Child care use during and after the COVID-19 pandemic](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

Statistics Canada, 29 July 2020

[Millennials and Gen Z want affordable child care: Findings from Next100 and GenForward](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

The Next100, 23 July 2020

[UK: COVID-19 and children's play](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

Play Safety Forum, 17 July 2020

[An anti-racist approach to supporting child care through COVID-19 and beyond](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

The Center for Law and Social Policy, 14 July 2020

[Child care stabilization fund toolkit](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

Child Care Relief & Center for American Progress

[Early learning and child care in Alberta: Results from a national survey during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

The Muttart Foundation & Canadian Child Care Federation, July 2020

[Increasing outdoor play in early learning and child care in the context of covid-19](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

Lawson Foundation, 13 July 2020

Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian families and children <sup>[20]</sup>  
Statistics Canada, 9 July 2020

Canada's COVID-19 economic recovery plan <sup>[21]</sup>  
CBC Radio: The Current, 7 July 2020

Understanding the age divide in COVID-19: Why are children overwhelmingly spared? <sup>[22]</sup>  
American Journal of Physiology-Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology, 25 June 2020

Addressing the indirect effects of COVID-19 on the health of children and young people <sup>[23]</sup>  
Canadian Medical Association Journal, 24 June 2020

COVID-19 is "very different" in young kids versus adults <sup>[24]</sup>  
The Scientist, 16 June 2020

Covid-19: Researchers question policy of closing schools after finding under 20s have low susceptibility to virus <sup>[25]</sup>  
BMJ, 17 June 2020

Why children avoid the worst coronavirus complications might lie in their arteries <sup>[26]</sup>  
Nature, 11 June 2020

Children are unlikely to be the main drivers of the COVID-19 pandemic - A systematic review <sup>[27]</sup>  
Acta Paediatrica, 19 May 2020

Reconciling interests of children and economies during the COVID-19 pandemic: Learning from families in Brandon, Manitoba <sup>[28]</sup>  
Inclusive Early Childhood Service System Project, May 2020

No evidence of secondary transmission of COVID-19 from children attending school in Ireland, 2020 <sup>[29]</sup>  
Euro Surveill, May 2020

Children do not appear to be COVID-19 'super-spreaders' <sup>[30]</sup>  
Ottawa Citizen, 26 May 2020

The coronavirus' effect on kids remains an unsolved mystery. Here are the clues so far. <sup>[31]</sup>  
Business Insider, 24 May 2020

Children half as likely as adults to get coronavirus, study says <sup>[32]</sup>  
The Guardian, 22 May 2020

Without child care, work and family are impossible <sup>[33]</sup>  
The Conversation, 19 May 2020

UK overview of scientific advice and information on coronavirus (COVID-19) <sup>[34]</sup>  
Government of UK, May 2020

Act Now: Re-imagining early childhood education and care in Ireland <sup>[35]</sup>  
INFORM, 20 May 2020

The impact of COVID-19 on the US child care market: Evidence from stay-at-home orders <sup>[36]</sup>  
IZA Institute of Labour Economics, May 2020

Can children transmit the new coronavirus to other people? <sup>[37]</sup>  
Full Fact, 19 May 2020

The child care industry is about to collapse. There's no bailout coming <sup>[38]</sup>  
Huffpost, 18 May 2020

Why the coronavirus hits kids and adults so differently <sup>[39]</sup>  
The Atlantic, 15 May 2020

Women's health, unpaid care and COVID -19 <sup>[40]</sup>  
Policy Fix - Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 11 May 2020

The coronavirus has caused a child care crisis. Here's how some parents are managing. <sup>[41]</sup>  
Vox, 8 May 2020

Summary: What is the evidence for transmission of COVID-19 by children [or in schools]? <sup>[42]</sup>  
Usher Network for COVID-19 Evidence Reviews, 6 May 2020

Should schools reopen? Kids' role in pandemic still a mystery <sup>[43]</sup>  
Science, 4 May 2020

The role of children in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), 1st update - a rapid review <sup>[44]</sup>  
Norwegian Institute of Public Health, 30 April 2020

Consensus is emerging that children are less vulnerable to coronavirus <sup>[45]</sup>  
Wall Street Journal, 27 April 2020

COVID-19 in schools - the experience in NSW <sup>[46]</sup>  
National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, 26 April 2020

An evidence summary of paediatric COVID-19 literature <sup>[47]</sup>  
Don't Forget the Bubbles <sup>+</sup>, 29 April 2020

US: Coronavirus pandemic could lead to permanent loss of nearly 4.5 million child care slots <sup>[48]</sup>  
Center for American Progress, 24 April 2020

Children and COVID-19 <sup>[49]</sup>  
Government of Netherlands, April 2020

Recommendations for the stabilization and survival of the essential early care and education sector <sup>[50]</sup>  
Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, 14 April 2020

Keeping key workers working: The role of pre-school childcare <sup>[51]</sup>  
Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2 April 2020

Early childhood policy meets early childhood science, part 1: On school readiness <sup>[52]</sup>  
Early Learning Nation, 21 April 2020

School closure and management practices during coronavirus including COVID-19: A rapid systematic review <sup>[53]</sup>  
The Lancet, 6 April 2020

Effects of COVID-19 day care centre closures on parental time use: Evidence from Germany <sup>[54]</sup>  
VOX CERP Policy Portal, 14 April 2020

Trying times: How might the lockdown change time use in families <sup>[55]</sup>  
Institute for Fiscal Studies, 20 April 2020

The impact of COVID-19 on gender equality <sup>[56]</sup>  
National Bureau of Economic Research, April 2020

COVID-19 and the demand for child care: Preliminary evidence <sup>[57]</sup>  
Arizona State University, 3 April 2020

Impact of school closures for COVID-19 on the US health-care workforce and net mortality: A modelling study <sup>[58]</sup>  
The Lancet, 3 April 2020

Federal leadership can play a key role in addressing Alberta's child care woes <sup>[59]</sup>  
Joel French, 6 April 2020

Our fragile child care 'system' may be about to shatter <sup>[60]</sup>  
The Hechinger Report, 5 April 2020

COVID-19 and childcare: Why many nurseries will struggle to weather the storm <sup>[61]</sup>  
The London School of Economics and Political Science, 7 April 2020

Why WHO needs a feminist economic agenda <sup>[62]</sup>  
The Lancet, 28 March 2020

COVID-19 crisis shows us childcare is always an essential service <sup>[63]</sup>  
Policy Options, 24 March 2020

WORLD: Epidemiology of COVID-19 among Children in China <sup>[64]</sup>  
Pediatrics, 1 March 2020

COVID-19 crisis response must address gender faultlines <sup>[65]</sup>  
Behind the Number, 20 March 2020

Why COVID-19 finally makes the 'essential economy' impossible to ignore <sup>[66]</sup>  
Mac Leans, 15 April 2020, news article.

Closing schools has only a minor role in suppressing COVID-19 <sup>[67]</sup>  
Medical News Today, 14 April 2020

We need bold action on child care <sup>[68]</sup>  
The Hill, 13 April 2020

Emergency childcare during COVID-19: Essentially accessible? <sup>[69]</sup>  
Wellesley Institute, 8 April 2020

The coronavirus is a disaster for feminism <sup>[70]</sup>  
The Atlantic, 27 March 2020

COVID-19: Pandemic punctures child-care illusion <sup>[71]</sup>  
Winnipeg Free Press, 25 March 2020.

COVID-19 resources: State child care actions in response to COVID-19 <sup>[72]</sup>  
The Hunt Institute, Ongoing updates

COVID-19: Child care and COVID-19: The top five actions Congress must take now <sup>[73]</sup>  
The Century Foundation, 27 March 2020

## Community and expert responses

In light of recent announcements related to the status of child care in Canadian provinces and internationally, there have been a number of community responses to provincial action(s). Below, you will find statements, campaigns, and letters from community and sector stakeholders to government officials as a call to action and in response to their announcements. This section will be updated as more information becomes available.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren: Childcare is 'infrastructure for families' <sup>[74]</sup>  
CNN, 19 August 2020

Coronavirus is making Corporate America realize that child care isn't someone else's problem <sup>[75]</sup>  
The Boston Globe, 15 August 2020

Open letter calls for child care reform <sup>[76]</sup>  
CBC News Network, 13 August 2020

Expanded provincial daycare strategy needs to be part of pandemic recovery program, Regional councillor says <sup>[77]</sup>  
St. Catharines Standard, 12 August 2020

Revisiting “from reopening to recovery: a child care plan for Ontario” <sup>[78]</sup>  
Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario and Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Open letter to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Canada: There is no time like the present to build a pan-Canadian system of child care <sup>[79]</sup>  
Child Care Now, 12 Aug 2020

Cheaper childcare: A practical plan to boost female workforce participation <sup>[80]</sup>  
Grattan Institute, 9 August 2020

Why are child care programs open when schools are not? <sup>[81]</sup>  
The New York Times, 4 August 2020

No better time than now to make childcare a priority: expert <sup>[82]</sup>  
The Morning Show - Global News Radio, 4 August 2020

Opinion: Decades of progress on gender equality in the workplace at risk of vanishing <sup>[83]</sup>  
The Globe and Mail, 2 August 2020

Rebuilding childcare in Canada must include a national strategy <sup>[84]</sup>  
Policy Options, 30 July 2020

A universal child care system with decent work at its core must be the goal of Ontario's review of the child care and early years act <sup>[85]</sup>  
University of Toronto (OISE), July 24 2020

Rebuilding childcare for a fair recovery and a stronger economy — aqm <sup>[86]</sup>  
Air Quotes Media, 20 July 2020

Prolonged recession ahead if there isn't a childcare solution: Economist <sup>[87]</sup>  
BNN Bloomberg, 16 July 2020

Panel: Armine Yalnizyan and Goldy Hyder on Canada's economic recovery <sup>[88]</sup>  
CBC News: The House, 11 July 2020

MPP Peter Tabuns: Doug Ford don't abandon parents in reopening schools and child care centres. <sup>[89]</sup>  
Youtube, 8 July 2020

A strategy for recovery: Making affordable child care for ALL a reality <sup>[90]</sup>  
Child Care Now!, July 2020

SEE: Plan to sustain Canada's Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) through the COVID-19 pandemic <sup>[91]</sup>. This plan was developed by

Canada's three national early childhood education and child care organizations: Canadian Child Care Federation, Child Care Now (Canada's child care advocacy association), and Childcare Resource and Research Unit.

How do we navigate a return to school and childcare? <sup>[92]</sup>

First Policy Response, 25 June 2020

Take action for child care: 3 steps to act now for child care <sup>[93]</sup>

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care & Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, 22 June 2020

A strategy for recovery: Making affordable child care for ALL a reality <sup>[94]</sup>

Child Care Now, June 2020

Press release: Canada must take a lesson from COVID-19 and build a child care system <sup>[95]</sup>

Child Care Now, 23 June 2020

Ontario's three-day notice for child-care reopening is a slap in the face for providers, children and their families <sup>[96]</sup>

The Star, 18 June 2020

Canada needs a childcare system for recovery and beyond <sup>[97]</sup>

First Policy Response, 18 June 2020

Webinar: Pandemic Economics: Thoughts on she-cession, she-recovery, and future growth [01:07:04] <sup>[98]</sup>

Canadian Association for Business Economics, 18 June 2020

Needed now: A feminist recovery plan <sup>[99]</sup>

Katherine Scott, Behind The Numbers, 11 June 2020

Stephen Lecce's letter to parents doubles down on the Ford government's half-baked child care plan <sup>[100]</sup>

The Star, 15 June 2020

Daycares reopening <sup>[101]</sup>

CBC Listen, 10 June 2020

Child care centres set to reopen this Friday - but are they ready? <sup>[102]</sup>

The Morning Show - Omny.fm, 10 June 2020

Video: Childcare resumption plan 'inadequate:' coalition [4:41] <sup>[103]</sup>

CP24, 9 June 2020

From reopening to recovery: A plan for child care reopening in Ontario and moving to a publicly funded system <sup>[104]</sup>

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care & Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, 27 May, 2020

Bezanson, Bevan and Lysack: Economic recovery from COVID-19 must include the 'care' sector <sup>[105]</sup>

Ottawa Citizen, 25 May 2020

Lack of child care is a crisis hiding in plain view, amplified by the pandemic and rippling into the future <sup>[106]</sup>

Metro Morning, 22 May 2020

Video: What Ontario's childcare plan means for parents during COVID-19 <sup>[107]</sup>

Global News, 21 May 2020

Feminist response to COVID-19 <sup>[108]</sup>

Feminist Response to COVID-19, May 2020 (ongoing updates)

\$10aDay Child Care NOW - for BC's COVID-19 recover <sup>[109]</sup>

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, May 2020

Video event: Child care and the COVID-19 pandemic <sup>[110]</sup>

Video discussion hosted by: Doly Begum MPP for Scarborough Southwest and Official Opposition Critic for Early Learning & Child Care.

Featuring: Carolyn Ferns, Policy Coordinator, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care and Alana Powell, Executive Coordinator, Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario on Thursday, May 14 at 7pm.

Les éducatrices en services de garde : les anges oubliés ? <sup>[111]</sup>

The Conversation, 8 May 2020

California child care at the brink: The devastating impact of COVID-19 on California child care <sup>[112]</sup>

Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, 7 May 2020

Part of Canada's recovery must be an overdue plan for universal child care <sup>[113]</sup>

The Hamilton Spectator, 1 May 2020

You can't reopen the economy without child care <sup>[114]</sup>

HuffPost Canada, 4 May 2020

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on early learning and child care programs in Alberta <sup>[115]</sup>

The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta, April 2020

The men pushing to re-open the economy clearly don't need child care <sup>[116]</sup>

The Nation, 30 April 2020

Social solidarity and childcare are at the centre of social and economic recovery <sup>[117]</sup>.

*First Policy Response* <sup>[118]</sup>, April 15, 2020.

Video: Your most cherished possession is ours too <sup>[119]</sup>

Norquest College/ YouTube, 6 April 2020

Caregiving beyond the crisis <sup>[120]</sup>

Behind the Numbers - CCPA NS, 27 April 2020

Letter to Ahmed Hussen: Sustaining early learning and child care through the pandemic <sup>[121]</sup>

Child Care Now, 14 April 2020

Statement from OCBCC President in response to Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce <sup>[122]</sup>

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, 14 April 2020

Letter to the Minister for increased supports <sup>[123]</sup>

AECEA, 8 April 2020

COVID-19 Letter to Government <sup>[124]</sup>

College of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, 8 April 2020

COVID-19: Protecting the health and safety of workers in emergency childcare centres <sup>[125]</sup>

Canadian Union of Public Employees, 2 April 2020

UPDATE! Ontario Child Care Closures due to COVID-19 <sup>[126]</sup>

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, 31 March 2020

COVID-19: Response to BC financial incentives for COVID-19 <sup>[127]</sup>

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC - \$10 a Day Campaign, 25 March 2020

Child-care federation calls on provinces to take unified approach during outbreak <sup>[128]</sup>

CBC News, 26 March 2020

Even as their role in fighting COVID-19 has become clear, child care workers remain an afterthought <sup>[129]</sup>

The Star, 26 March 2020

MLA Danielle Adams letter: Parent fees amidst COVID-19 <sup>[130]</sup>

Danielle Adams, 25 March 2020

Child care and COVID-19 <sup>[131]</sup>

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC - \$10 a Day, 20 March 2020

Child care in Manitoba must remain public after COVID-19 <sup>[132]</sup>

CUPE, 20 March 2020

Letter of to Premier, Ministers of Health, Education and Finance amidst COVID-19 <sup>[133]</sup>

Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association, 19 March 2020

An emergency plan for Ontario child care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic <sup>[134]</sup>

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, 17 March 2020

Open letter to Canada's Premiers - Early learning and Child care planning COVID-19 <sup>[135]</sup>

Canadian Child Care Federation, 16 March 2020

Campaign: Temporarily close child care programs in Ontario due to COVID-19 <sup>[136]</sup>

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, 15 March 2020

Statement on COVID-19 <sup>[137]</sup>

Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, 13 March 2020

MPP Doly Begum: Ensuring child care is not left behind in Ontario's response to COVID-19 <sup>[138]</sup>

Doly Begum, 15 March 2020

COVID-19 statement to B.C Minister of Health <sup>[139]</sup>

Early Childhood Educators of BC, 17 March 2020

Position statement on COVID-19 <sup>[140]</sup>

Manitoba Child Care Association, 16 March 2020

Response to lack of COVID-19 public health directive on child care <sup>[141]</sup>  
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, 18 March 2020

Applying for financial support (EI): Information for child care and early years' workers relating to COVID-19 <sup>[142]</sup>  
Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, 19 March 2020

## After the pandemic: What comes next?

As we continue to hear about the effects and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, many analysts are beginning to look forward, exploring what comes next. In many analyses, reflections on what has been learned about early learning and child care as essential for our society and economy are part of considerations of needed systemic transformations.

Lack of school and child care may push some parents out of workforce <sup>[143]</sup>  
CNBC, 6 August 2020

We can't recover from COVID-19 without a childcare plan that works for families <sup>[144]</sup>  
Today's Parent, 27 July 2020

Back to school: About a dozen countries have returned kids to classrooms. What Canada can learn from them <sup>[145]</sup>  
National Post, 25 July 2020

US: Social programs can sometimes turn a profit for taxpayers <sup>[146]</sup>  
The New York Times, 10 July 2020

When it comes to going back to work, COVID-19 is impacting Canadian mothers more than fathers: study <sup>[147]</sup>  
CTV News, 7 July 2020

Towards a child union! Reducing inequalities in the EU through investment in children's early years the foundation for European progressive studies <sup>[148]</sup>  
The Foundation for European Progressive Studies, July 2020

The big factor holding back the U.S. economic recovery: No childcare <sup>[149]</sup>  
The Washington Post, 3 July 2020

COVID-19: Recommendations for school reopening <sup>[150]</sup>  
Sick Kids, 17 June 2020

As economy reopens, some call for a 'reimagined' Canada, not a return to normal <sup>[151]</sup>  
The Star, 1 June 2020

How to build a better child care system <sup>[152]</sup>  
New York Times, 29 May 2020

New Alberta research aims to answer important questions about kids and COVID-19 <sup>[153]</sup>  
Global News, 26 May 2020

Canadians need child-care benefits to withstand a COVID-19 recession <sup>[154]</sup>  
The Globe and Mail, 11 May 2020

Melinda Gates: How rethinking caregiving could play a crucial role in restarting the economy <sup>[155]</sup>  
The Washington Post, 7 May 2020

Millions of dads are stuck at home – which could be a game changer for working moms <sup>[156]</sup>  
CNN, 24 April 2020

A woman's worth in a pandemic <sup>[157]</sup>  
The New Republic, 28 April 2020

The economy can't recover until parents have child care again <sup>[158]</sup>  
CNN Business, 2 May 2020

Prime Minister releases joint statement by First Ministers for restarting the economy <sup>[159]</sup>  
Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, 28 April 2020

Social infrastructure, particularly child care will be central to Canada's economic recovery <sup>[160]</sup>  
NewsTALK 610 CKTB, 21 April 2020

Care at the core: Social solidarity and childcare are at the centre of social and economic recovery <sup>[117]</sup>  
First Policy Response, 15 April 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic reveals and exacerbates the crisis of care <sup>[161]</sup>  
Open Democracy, 13 April 2020



COVID-19's impact: not recession, but completely different economics <sup>[162]</sup>  
Toronto Star, 9 April 2020

Are our preschool teachers worth more than they were two months ago? <sup>[163]</sup>  
Brookings, 13 April 2020

Jobs report to show ground zero of COVID-19 impact in Canada <sup>[164]</sup>  
Bloomberg, 8 April 2020

We're going to need a Marshall Plan to rebuild after COVID-19 <sup>[165]</sup>  
Policy Options, 2 April 2020

Virus lays bare the frailty of the social contract <sup>[166]</sup>  
Financial Times, 4 April 2020

Once the pandemic is over, we'll need a new social contract for Canada <sup>[167]</sup>  
Hill Times, 6 April 2020

Taking care of each other is essential work <sup>[168]</sup>  
VICE, 7 April 2020

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