

# International responses to the pandemic

This section provides a selection of relevant articles across different jurisdictions, providing insight into the variety of child care challenges and policy approaches undertaken by different countries in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Relevant international news

Millennials and Gen Z Want Affordable Child Care: Findings from Next100 <sup>[1]</sup>

Next100, 23 July 2020

UNESCO webinar paints ECEC as 'the forgotten child' in society, calls for more attention <sup>[2]</sup>

The Sector, 20 July 2020

Policy memo: Strengthening the quality of early childhood education and care through inclusion <sup>[3]</sup>

European Commission, June 2020

Why recovery needs to have children at its centre <sup>[4]</sup>

Social Europe, 16 June 2020

'I won't go': Cheers and tears as Europe's kids go back to school <sup>[5]</sup>

CTV News, 11 May 2020

Schools reopening has not triggered rise in Covid-19 cases, EU ministers told <sup>[6]</sup>

The Guardian, 18 May 2020

No coronavirus spike found after re-opening schools in 22 EU countries <sup>[7]</sup>

The Telegraph, 18 May 2020

Lack of childcare 'forcing key workers to stay home' <sup>[8]</sup>

BBC, 30 March 2020

If coronavirus forces childcare services to close for good, parents will be left stranded <sup>[9]</sup>

The Guardian, 30 March 2020

Coronavirus: Creches will not ask parents for fees after deal with State <sup>[10]</sup>

The Irish Times, 24 March 2020

The coronavirus puts child care sector in need of a bailout <sup>[11]</sup>

Boston Globe, 24 March 2020

Opinion: Child cares - and parents of young children - need a bailout <sup>[12]</sup>

Romper, 20 March 2020

COVID-19 resources: State child care actions in response to COVID-19 <sup>[13]</sup>

The Hunt Institute, Ongoing updates

COVID-19: The U.S. Coronavirus response must meet health workers' child care needs <sup>[14]</sup>

Center for American Progress, 24 March 2020

COVID-19: Babies don't do social distancing <sup>[15]</sup>

The Hill, 20 March 2020

COVID-19: Australia: Medical certificate needed for childcare subsidy if children kept home <sup>[16]</sup>

The Guardian, 19 March 2020

COVID-19: Scramble for childcare in Madrid as schools closed over coronavirus <sup>[17]</sup>

The Guardian, 11 March 2020

COVID-19: UK: Parents with these jobs can continue to send their children to school <sup>[18]</sup>

SkyNews, 20 March 2020

COVID-19: UK: Nurseries will close without more support during coronavirus <sup>[19]</sup>

The Guardian, 20 March 2020

COVID-19: UK: All schools to close from Friday; GCSE and A-level exams cancelled – UK Covid-19, as it happened <sup>[20]</sup>

The Guardian, 18 March 2020

COVID-19: For parents, a battle to find day care while so much closes amid coronavirus fears <sup>[21]</sup>  
The Washington Post, 13 March 2020

'What's the right thing to do?' Coronavirus forces families to make painful child care decisions <sup>[22]</sup>  
The Time, 17 March 2020

Coronavirus: How does it impact child care providers and CCR&R? <sup>[23]</sup>  
Child Care Aware of America, 28 February 2020

Being a childcare worker has always meant living on the frontlines <sup>[24]</sup>  
Jezebel, 17 March 2020

Denmark gives green light to children's pyjama parties <sup>[25]</sup>  
The Local, 14 May 2020

How reopened schools in Denmark keep children safely apart <sup>[26]</sup>  
BBC News, 12 May 2020

'It's like walking a tightrope': Life after lockdown in Denmark <sup>[27]</sup>  
The Local, 18 April 2020

Three toys per child and a teddy bear ban: New rules for Denmark's kindergartens <sup>[28]</sup>  
The Local, 16 April 2020

Denmark first in Europe to reopen schools after coronavirus lockdown <sup>[29]</sup>  
The Local, 15 April 2020

How schools and day care centres in Denmark are gearing up for reopening <sup>[30]</sup>  
The Local, 13 April 2020

Government recommendations for small kids returning to daycare, kindergarten and school <sup>[31]</sup>  
CPH Post, 9 April 2020

## Country responses

### Austria

Schools are closed but will continue to supervise children of parents who are working. Child care centres are closed in some locales such as Vienna.

Belgium

Child care centres are not required to close. Schools are closed but some schools will remain open to look after children of essential workers.

### Denmark

Re-opened child care on April 15, 2020

Denmark gives green light to children's pyjama parties <sup>[25]</sup>  
The Local, 14 May 2020

How reopened schools in Denmark keep children safely apart <sup>[26]</sup>  
BBC News, 12 May 2020

'It's like walking a tightrope': Life after lockdown in Denmark <sup>[27]</sup>  
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Three toys per child and a teddy bear ban: New rules for Denmark's kindergartens <sup>[28]</sup>  
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The Local, 13 April 2020

Government recommendations for small kids returning to daycare, kindergarten and school <sup>[31]</sup>  
CPH Post, 9 April 2020

## Finland

Re-opening schools and daycares starting May 14, 2020

Finland to reopen schools and daycares gradually starting May 14 <sup>[32]</sup>  
National Post, 29 April 2020

## France

Will re-open child care on May 11, 2020

70 cases of COVID-19 at French schools days after re-opening <sup>[33]</sup>  
The Star, 18 May 2020

Viral photo shows preschoolers confined to chalk squares for social-distanced playtime <sup>[34]</sup>  
The Hill, 13 May 2020

France starts to reopen schools - but many kids remain at home <sup>[35]</sup>  
The Local, 12 May 2020

French PM reveals detailed plan to end lockdown in France <sup>[36]</sup>  
The Local, 28 April 2020

Updated: How France's plan to reopen schools has changed <sup>[37]</sup>  
The Local, 21 April 2020

## Germany

All child care centres closed.

## Ireland

All child care centres closed.

Creches will not ask parents for fees for three months, as government scheme will see childcare worker wages topped up beyond the 70 per cent level announced for others.

Department of Children and Youth Affairs will reimburse childcare providers a further 30 per cent on top of the scheme announced earlier, which will see the Government pay 70 per cent of a workers salary up to €410 per week.

Importance of childcare to the economy has been recognised at last <sup>[5:22]</sup> <sup>[38]</sup>  
Irish Times, 15 June 2020

What will reopened childcare centres look like to staff and to children? <sup>[39]</sup>  
The Irish Times, 2 June 2020

Coronavirus: HSE experts support the early reopening of schools <sup>[40]</sup>  
The Irish Times, 29 May 2020

Report warns over 'financial sustainability' of childcare sector <sup>[41]</sup>  
The Irish Times, 14 May 2020

## Italy

All child care centres closed.

Social bubbles and no toys from home: How Italy will reopen kindergartens <sup>[42]</sup>  
The Local, 4 August 2020

Italians prepare to return to work, if they can find child-care <sup>[43]</sup>  
The Wall Street Journal, 2 May 2020

## Lithuania

All child care centres are closed.

## Netherlands

Will re-open child care centres on May 11, 2020

De rol van kinderen in de transmissie van SARS-CoV-2 / The role of children in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 <sup>[44]</sup>

Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde, 6 June 2020

Initial results on how COVID-19 spreads within Dutch families <sup>[45]</sup>  
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, 3 June 2020

Children and COVID-19 <sup>[46]</sup>  
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, 18 May 2020

Netherlands wants to fully open primary schools before the summer <sup>[47]</sup>  
The Brussels Times, 23 April 2020

Europe begins going back to school: France and Holland become latest countries to reopen classrooms, with young children to return in small groups from May 11 <sup>[48]</sup>  
Daily Mail, 22 April 2020

Netherlands will open primary schools in May: Other lockdown measures continue <sup>[49]</sup>  
NL Times, 21 April 2020

## Norway

Re-opened child care on April 20, 2020

0.6% of children in Norway test positive for the coronavirus <sup>[50]</sup>  
The Local, 21 May 2020

Opening schools has not rekindled epidemic in Norway, say authorities <sup>[51]</sup>  
The Local, 11 May 2020

'I wasn't sure of the kids' safety': How parents felt about Norway's kindergarten opening <sup>[52]</sup>  
The Local, 24 April 2020

Nursery, but not as they knew it ... Norway adjusts to life after lockdown <sup>[53]</sup>  
The Guardian, 24 April 2020

Oslo kindergartens will open again <sup>[54]</sup>  
City of Oslo, 17 April 2020

Pack lunches and no toys from home: New rules for Norway's kindergartens <sup>[55]</sup>  
The Local, 20 April 2020

Kindergarten reopening and COVID-19 [Video] <sup>[56]</sup>  
Bydel Bjerke, 20 April 2020

Updated: What you need to know about Norway's kindergarten reopening <sup>[57]</sup>  
The Local, 15 April 2020

## Portugal

All child care centres closed. Wage compensation for parents not at work.

## Scotland

Schools and nurseries in Scotland and Wales will close as of March 20th, 2020

Reopening childcare safely <sup>[58]</sup>  
Scottish Government, 15 June 2020

## Sweden

Neither schools nor child care are consistently closed.

## UK

Schools and nurseries in Scotland and Wales will close as of March 20th, 2020

Schools and nurseries in the UK-England will be close as of March 20th, 2020

Schools in Northern Ireland are due to shut Monday, March 23rd, 2020.

Activism, autonomy and identities: Stories from early childhood educators <sup>[59]</sup>  
British Educational Research Associations

UK working mothers are 'sacrificial lambs' in coronavirus childcare crisis <sup>[60]</sup>  
The Guardian, 24 July 2020

Don't build roads, open schools <sup>[61]</sup>  
The Atlantic, 30 June 2020

Early years and childcare sector at risk of collapse in England <sup>[62]</sup>  
The Guardian, 1 June 2020

Education secretary uses Danish schools example to fend off union criticism <sup>[63]</sup>  
Personnel Today, 14 May 2020

Coronavirus: Some childminders in England can reopen <sup>[64]</sup>  
BBC, 13 May 2020

## United States

Child care closures/ re-openings are managed by state governments. There is no definitive answer on the status of child care in the US.

Coronavirus prompts child-care providers to call it quits <sup>[65]</sup>  
Los Angeles Times, 22 August 2020

Pandemic widened Boston's child care gap <sup>[66]</sup>  
WGBH, 12 August 2020

Daycare workers worry they're being asked to do too much for kids with distance learning assignments <sup>[67]</sup>  
ABC 10, 12 August 2020

Joe Biden's plan for universal preschool forgets key to children's success: Parents. <sup>[68]</sup>  
USA Today, 3 August 2020

US: What are parents doing for child care? Here are 3 options (with trade-offs) <sup>[69]</sup>  
NPR, 31 July 2020

Child care is broken. Biden has a plan to fix it. <sup>[70]</sup>  
Vox, 24 July 2020

How the child care crisis will distort the economy for a generation  
Politico, 23 July 2020

California allowing kids in classrooms - for day care <sup>[71]</sup>  
Times Herald, 22 July 2020

Opinion: Elizabeth Warren: To fight the pandemic, here's my must-do list <sup>[72]</sup>  
The New York Times, 21 July 2020

Can essential child care during Covid-19 offer a model to schools this fall? <sup>[73]</sup>  
CNN, 20 July 2020

NYC plans child care for 100,000 kids when schools partially reopen <sup>[74]</sup>  
Politico, 16 July 2020

Advocating for child care during and after a pandemic <sup>[75]</sup>  
Child Care Exchange, July 2020

The coronavirus pandemic child care crisis, in 11 numbers <sup>[76]</sup>  
Vox, 16 July 2020

Why it took so long for politicians to treat the child care crisis as a crisis <sup>[77]</sup>  
FiveThirtyEight, 16 July 2020

LA and San Diego Schools to Go Online-Only in The Fall <sup>[78]</sup>  
The New York Times, 13 June 2020

There is no essential work without child care <sup>[79]</sup>  
Dissent, 8 July 2020

COVID-19 planning considerations: Guidance for school re-entry <sup>[80]</sup>  
American Pediatric Association, July 2020

University of Minnesota child care research finds urban-rural divide, including in Northland <sup>[81]</sup>  
Duluth News Tribune, 3 July 2020

Parents can't wait around forever <sup>[82]</sup>

The Atlantic, 2 July 2020

Opinion: Child care is essential to reopening the economy <sup>[83]</sup>  
CNN, 2 July 2020

Under the same roof, for better and for worse <sup>[84]</sup>  
Rapid Assessment of Pandemic Impact on Development Early Childhood Household Survey Project, 16 June 2020

Why kids rarely fall sick with COVID-19 revealed in new research <sup>[85]</sup>  
MSN lifestyle, 12 June 2020

Time's up: Child care providers are not America's mammy <sup>[86]</sup>  
The Grio, 12 June 2020

America's child care system is in crisis. Joe Biden will soon release a plan to fix it. <sup>[87]</sup>  
Mother Jones, 12 June 2020

COVID-19 pandemic adds further stress to an already overwhelmed local child care industry <sup>[88]</sup>  
Greeley Tribune, 7 June 2020

With caution and creativity, day cares prepare to reopen <sup>[89]</sup>  
The New York Times, 2 June 2020

Should the child care industry get a bail-out? <sup>[90]</sup>  
New York Times, 27 May 2020

Opinion: Without child care, there's no recovery <sup>[91]</sup>  
New York Times - Opinion Today, 20 May 2020

Affordable child care is increasingly difficult to find in the U.S.—coronavirus could make it harder <sup>[92]</sup>  
CNBC, 15 May 2020

Is day care safe during the coronavirus pandemic? It depends. Here are some guidelines. <sup>[93]</sup>  
USA Today, 18 May 2020

Commentary: Universal child care was provided during World War II. We need it again during this pandemic — and beyond <sup>[94]</sup>  
Chicago Tribune, 30 April 2020

## Australia and New Zealand

Quality child care can help rebuild our economy <sup>[95]</sup>  
The Australian, 13 August 2020

Cheaper childcare could boost economy by \$11b a year: Grattan Institute <sup>[96]</sup>  
The Sydney Morning Herald, 9 August 2020

Childcare centre brace for cutbacks <sup>[97]</sup>  
The Australian, 5 August 2020

Now would be a good time to admit Australia's childcare system is not fit for purpose <sup>[98]</sup>  
The Guardian, 4 August 2020

Melbourne childcare providers say they need urgent clarity and support from government Australia news <sup>[99]</sup>  
The Guardian, 4 August 2020

Why there should be no place for profit in early childhood education <sup>[100]</sup>  
Stuff, 31 July 2020

Australia's childcare centres struggle to pay up to \$9,000 for Covid-19 cleaning <sup>[101]</sup>  
The Guardian, 26 July 2020

Australian business groups warn of coming cliff when free childcare and jobkeeper end <sup>[102]</sup>  
The Guardian, 24 June 2020

Extending free childcare could fuel huge boost to economy, report says <sup>[103]</sup>  
The Guardian, 24 June 2020

Free childcare ends as tax refunds start rolling out to millions of Australians <sup>[104]</sup>  
The Guardian, 12 June 2020

Snapping back to the childcare subsidy method is nuts. It should not be a system that profits <sup>[105]</sup>  
The Guardian, 20 May 2020

Large pay bump for early childhood teachers in pre-budget announcement <sup>[106]</sup>

Stuff.co.nz, 11 May 2020

'Free childcare has been amazing': Australian parents hope pandemic may pave way for reform <sup>[107]</sup>  
The Guardian, 10 May 2020

Forget flowers and chocolates for Mother's Day: Keep free childcare going instead <sup>[108]</sup>  
The Conversation, 7 May 2020

COVID-19: ECEC needs urgent and tough COVID-19 rules, Union says, releasing plan <sup>[109]</sup>  
The Sector, 26 March 2020

COVID-19: United Workers Union ECEC rules to stop spread of COVID-19 <sup>[110]</sup>  
United Workers Union & Big Steps Campaign, 25 March 2020  
Mon, 09/14/2020

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