

## Family Perspective: Child Care in Massachusetts

Strategies for Children (SFC) wants to hear how the parents of young children have been navigating the Coronavirus pandemic so far and what your plans are for the near future. We know there are still a lot of uncertainties. Your responses will help inform the COVID-19 response and advocacy in Massachusetts. To protect your privacy only aggregate information will be disseminated publicly. If any open-ended responses are used, every attempt will be made to mask the identity of respondents through anonymity and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. For more information please visit the SFC response page at: <http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/covid-19.html>

### ALL PARENTS

1. Do you have young children (age birth through five) who were previously enrolled in an early childhood program, center or family child care before the Coronavirus pandemic?

- Yes
- No

2. What was the employment status of the adult member(s) in your household prior to the Coronavirus pandemic?

- One full-time worker
- Two full-time workers
- One part-time worker
- Two part-time workers
- One part-time and one full-time worker
- Other

3. What is the current work status of the adult member(s) in your household? (check any that apply)

- Working Remotely
- Working Overtime
- Working Reduced Hours
- Furloughed or Laid Off
- No Change
- Other

4. Are you (or is a member of your household) an essential employee as defined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?

- Yes
- No

### ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES SECTION

5. What type of essential employee are you (member of your household)?

- multiple choice ([mas.gov](https://www.mass.gov) list of essential employees)

6. Are you using an Emergency Child Care provider established by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)? (includes links with descriptions)

- Yes
- No

### ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE: EMERGENCY CHILD CARE USER

7. How well is the Emergency Child Care Program meeting your needs?

- Not at all
- Slightly
- Somewhat
- Fairly well
- Very well

8. Please explain your response to the above question here:

-short answer text

9. Are you aware or are you participating in any informal child care networks to support Essential Workers in your community (e.g. neighborhood co-op, medical/nursing student organizations)?

-short answer text

## **ESSENTIAL WORKER: NO EMERGENCY CHILD CARE**

10. Why aren't you using an Emergency Child Care program established by MA (choose all that apply):

-Someone in my household is providing child care support.

-I have made other child care arrangements.

-I didn't know about these programs.

-I know about them, but there are none in my area.

-They don't meet the needs of my family.

-I have health concerns with group child care (Coronavirus).

-Other

11. Please explain your response to the above question here:

-short answer text

12. Are you aware or are you participating in any informal child care networks to support Essential Workers in your community (e.g. neighborhood co-op, medical/nursing student organizations)?

-short answer text

13. Please review this description and indicate how likely it is that you will use the Emergency Child Care Programs in the future (EEC description of programs):

-Not likely

-Somewhat likely

-Very likely

14. Please explain your response to the above question here:

-short answer text

## **ALL PARENTS**

15. Understanding that prior to Coronavirus your child attended an early childhood program, center or family child care, were you paying tuition to attend?

-Yes

-No

-Not Sure

16. How willing are you to continue to pay for that tuition during this closure?

-Very Unwilling

-Somewhat Unwilling

-Not Sure

-Somewhat Willing

-Very Willing

17. Please explain your response to the above question here:

-short answer text

# Strategies for Children

18. Please select all the statements you have been considering while child care is closed in MA:

- I am worried that my child is missing out on important developmental opportunities (socialization and learning)
- I am focused on our family's basic financial needs - food, paying bills, essential supplies, the mortgage, etc.
- I am worried I will no longer be able to afford to put my child in a child care program at the conclusion of this crisis
- I will not be able to return to work without a consistent child care solution for my child
- I am uncertain of my own employment
- I am concerned about the spread of Coronavirus through child care
- I am struggling to work from home without child care
- Other

19. When the Governor decides to reopen child care, are you planning to return to your child care provider?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

## HESITANT TO RETURN PARENTS

20. Are you hesitant to return to child care due to (choose any that apply):

- Health Concerns
- Employment/Financial Concerns
- Transportation Concerns
- Other

21. Please explain your response to the above question here:

- short answer text

22. Would you feel more comfortable using an alternative form of child care for the duration of the Coronavirus pandemic (choose all that apply)?

- Center-Based Programs
- Family Child Care
- Public School Preschool Programs
- In-Home Child Care (Nanny)
- Loved Ones (Family/Friends)
- I plan to eventually return to my previous child care
- I won't feel comfortable leaving my children with anyone else for the foreseeable future

## ALL PARENTS

23. Please indicate what sources you rely on to help make decision about child care during this current crisis period

- My employer
- My child care program
- Friends/Family
- Local media - newspaper, TV
- Social media
- Department of Early Education and Care
- Other

24. Please select where your child was receiving care prior to Coronavirus?

- Center-Based Programs
- Family Child Care
- Public School Preschool Programs
- In-Home Child Care (Nanny)
- Loved Ones (Family/Friends/etc.)

25. Are you still in contact with your child care provider?

-Yes

-No

26. Please describe the communication with your child care provider:

-short answer text

27. We want to make sure that parents in MA have access to the child care of their preference. In an ideal world, what type of child care solution best meets your family's needs?

-Center-Based Programs

-Family Child Care

-Public School Preschool Programs

-In-Home Child Care (Nanny)

-Loved Ones (Family/Friends/etc.)

28. Would you be interested in virtual parent coaching while your child is not attending child care?

-Yes

-No

-Maybe

29. Please select the topics you would be most interested in hearing about during a virtual coaching session (select all that apply):

-Socialization during the COVID-19 Pandemic

-Physical Activities for Young Children

-Child Development (milestones)

-Teaching Instruction

-At-Home Learning Activities

-Nutrition and Health Resources

-Behavior Management Resources

-Other

30. Please share any additional thoughts that you have with us:

-long answer text

31. Name

32. Email Address

33. Town or City

34. Region

-Western MA

-Central MA

-Greater Boston Area

-South East

-North East