

Early Years and Covid-19: The Parents' View

May 2021



All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 10,878 adults, of which 570 were parents of children aged 2-4. Fieldwork was undertaken between 6th - 12th May 2021. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

This survey has been conducted using an online interview administered to members of the YouGov Plc UK panel of 800,000+ individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. Emails are sent to panellists selected at random from the base sample. The e-mail invites them to take part in a survey and provides a generic survey link. Once a panel member clicks on the link they are sent to the survey that they are most required for, according to the sample definition and quotas.

Now thinking about since the UK first went into lockdown as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (i.e. since 23rd March 2020)...

1. Which, if any, of the following have you been particularly worried about? (Please select all that apply).

My child's overall development (e.g. physical, language, social/ emotional development, etc.)	56%
Finding childcare for my child	13%
Affording childcare for my child	13%
Affording other costs for my child (e.g. food, clothes, activities, etc.)	14%
My child's mental health	33%
My child catching and/ or spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19)	33%
Other	1%
Don't know	4%
Not applicable - I have not been particularly worried about anything during this period	17%
Unweighted base	570

2. Do you think your child's development in each of the following areas has been impacted positively or negatively, or do you think it has had no impact? (Please select one option on each row)

Physical development

Very positively	5%
Fairly positively	11%
No impact	60%
Fairly negatively	16%
Very negatively	3%
Don't know	5%
Net: Positively	16%
Net: Negatively	20%
Unweighted base	570

Language development

Very positively	7%
Fairly positively	14%
No impact	49%
Fairly negatively	19%
Very negatively	6%
Don't know	4%
Net: Positively	21%
Net: Negatively	25%
Unweighted base	570

Social and emotional development/wellbeing

Very positively	3%
Fairly positively	10%
No impact	29%
Fairly negatively	43%
Very negatively	9%
Don't know	5%
Net: Positively	14%
Net: Negatively	52%
Unweighted base	570

3. Which, if any, of the following would you say have negatively impacted your child in ANY way? (Please select all that apply.)

Being unable to play with other children	69%
Being unable to meet other close relatives	63%
Being unable to meet with other adults	37%
Being unable to attend a nursery, school or childcare provider	44%
Facilities (e.g. play areas, swimming pools, children centres, etc.), groups or activities being cancelled or made unavailable	67%
Having a lack of space at home during lockdowns	25%
Other	2%
Don't know	3%
Not applicable - nothing in particular has negatively impacted my child since the beginning of the first UK lockdown	9%
Unweighted base	570

4. Which ONE, if either, of the following statements comes closest to your view?

The UK government has done enough to support the development of all pre-school age children during the pandemic	20%
The UK government has not done enough to support the development of all pre-school age children during the pandemic	51%
None of these	9%
Don't know	19%
Unweighted base	570