

# PLEY COVID-19 Key Findings Series Childcare

## Play and Learning in the Early Years



### Childcare and Play



"Pretends she has virus. More death among her play figures"  
(Age 5)

**Most children aged 1-5 miss childcare and their friends**

"Play house - I asked to come in. He said I couldn't because of the virus. Told me to go shopping but to make sure I wiped it all down before I gave it to him"  
(Age 3)

**67%** miss childcare

**84%** miss their friends

**84%** miss playing with other children

**33%** have brought the virus into play

"Doctors and nurses to make sick people better, hand gel, no touching"  
(Age 4)

"Introducing washing hands into pretend play"  
(Age 3)



### Impact of Restrictions



**Some children and families are struggling according to parent's descriptions and may need additional support on returning to childcare:**

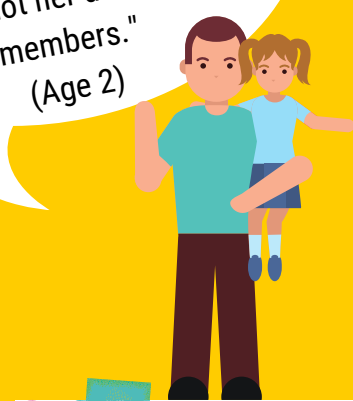
"He's sad and less willing to share"  
(Age 4)

"Being taken from friends in creche/playschool and staying away from cousins has been very difficult. Both parents working full time from home has been extremely hard and challenging with child constantly asking to be played with and not understanding the demands and stress of work. It is truly a desperate situation and I feel the pressure on working parents and impact on kids has been down played and not sufficiently acknowledged."  
(Age 3)

"Emotionally a lot more demanding and behaviours have reverted to that of a younger child"  
(Age 5)

"Difficulty seeing people. Finds it strange to spend any time communicating with other people that are not her direct family members."  
(Age 2)

"My daughter was attending creche. She was very out going and loved seeing her friends. Now she has become very very attached to Mum and is cautious at first when she sees some one out of the family home."  
(Age 2)



### Understanding Restrictions



**1-3 year olds:**

**4-5 year olds:**

**Just over half** of these parents said their children have some awareness of the restrictions and have practised social distancing. However, **very few 1 and 2 year olds** understand the restrictions or social distancing

**Over two thirds** of parents said their child understands the restrictions, understands social distancing, and has practised social distancing

**About the PLEY Survey:**  
Data provided by 506 parents of children aged 1-10, collected online between May 21st and June 3rd 2020

**This research was carried out by the Cognition, Development, and Learning Lab @MIC Limerick**

