

Nicole Clowe - Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020

I am a mother of a kindergartener and a 1.5 year old. Both my husband and I work full time, well I did work full time until having to sacrifice half of my hours due to COVID. The option of sending kids back to school for 2 days with the remainder being online learning is unrealistic and unsustainable for working, and stay at home, parents. There seems to be an assumption 1 parent does not work, gives up their job, their place in their career, or their income to homeschool their child while taking care of the household, other children, and making the bills. There is no financial or other support offered to parents who are burning it at both ends taking care and teaching their kids during the day and working after bedtime. There is a lot more to the story once after the homework is posted online. The priority should be how can we safely get kids back to school, and if we can't how can we provide support to parents to make up for lost income and increased demands outside their scope. Additionally, the other 3 days a week each child will likely be exposed to kids at daycare, neighbours, or other caregivers completely negating the point of reducing contacts by having 2 days of school. I am fortunate to have been able to work from home late into the night however many are no, I am fortunate my kids do not have special needs and are missing out on vital supports. The impacts of this are far beyond logging on to google classroom.