

Talking points for ECE staff: Should my child be in childcare right now?

1. Be honest about the risk. The risk of exposure is greater for those children in care than those children who are at home.
2. Explain the health and sanitation practices in place to reduce risk of infection.
3. Remember it is not your decision to make. All you can do is help families think about what is best for them.
4. Questions provide to families to help them think about their decision:
 - What is the guidance from my state and local government on safety practices?
 - Can I stay at home with my child? Am I an essential worker?
 - What is my financial situation? Can I afford not to work?
 - Can I work from home? If so, how might my work be impacted if I am also caring for my children? What is being asked of me if I work from home and how understanding/flexible is my employer?
 - Do I have support from a partner or family member to care for my child while I work?
 - Does anyone in my family fit the high-risk category of infection? Is someone in my home an older adult? Is someone immunocompromised?
 - How does my child manage change and transition?
 - How am I doing emotionally and mentally? Is it better for me and my family to have a break during the day? Or will I feel less stressed knowing my child is at home, reducing COVID risks?
 - Am I worried about my child's learning at home? Would I feel more confident in his/her education if he/she were in classroom?