

# THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS: Supporting Parents With Young Children

The results of our statewide survey on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on parents with infants and toddlers

## KEY FINDINGS

- 1 New York's parents of infants and toddlers are experiencing intense financial insecurity during this time. As a result of this crisis, many parents are skipping or reducing their family's meals.
- 2 For many New York families, the coronavirus crisis has been incredibly disruptive and put parents' and young children's well-being at risk.
- 3 The coronavirus crisis has significantly changed parents' child care arrangements and other parenting supports. The crisis has introduced a lot of uncertainty about child care for many parents of young children in New York, including among essential workers.
- 4 Some — but not all — parents have been in a position to make the most out of this time with their child, though more time at home has come at the expense of more screen time for infants and toddlers.

# Job loss and fears of job loss are widespread among parents of infants and toddlers

16%



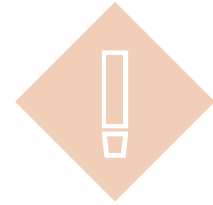
Unemployed, furloughed, or laid off

34%



Have had hours or pay reduced or taken time off work to care for their child

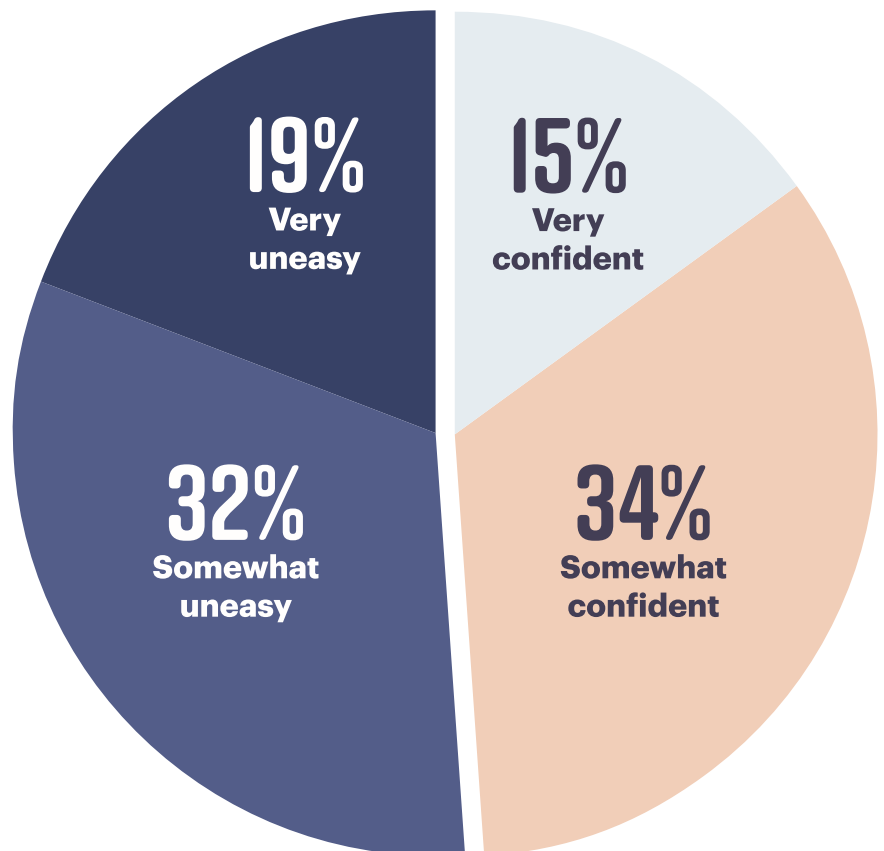
67%



Worried about losing their jobs or having their hours reduced

## More than half of parents of infants and toddlers are “uneasy” about their personal finances

Thinking about your family’s personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy?



# 1 in 3 parents of infants and toddlers are skipping or reducing meals

Have you done any of the following as a result of the coronavirus crisis?



Skipped or reduced the size of their own meals

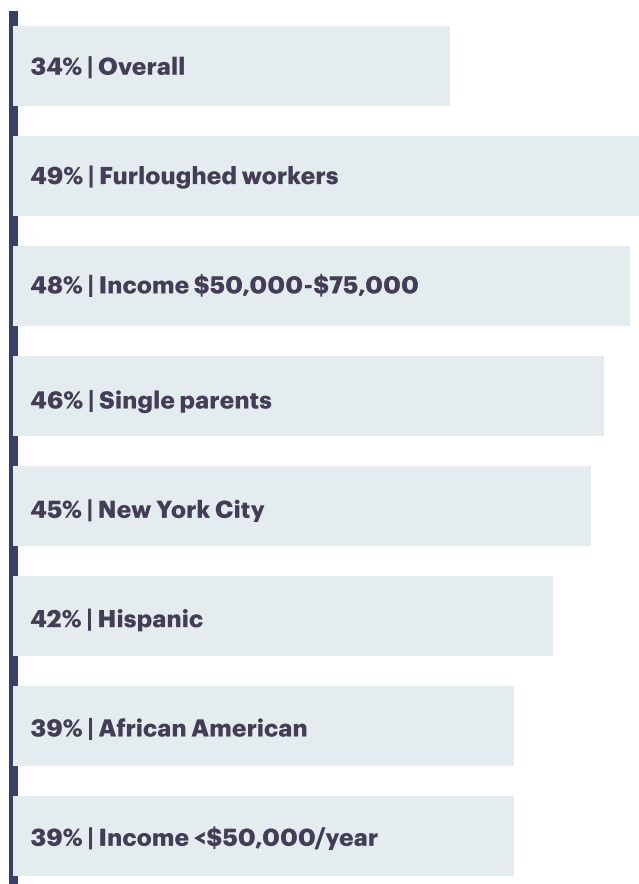


Reduced or skipped the size of meals they provide for their children

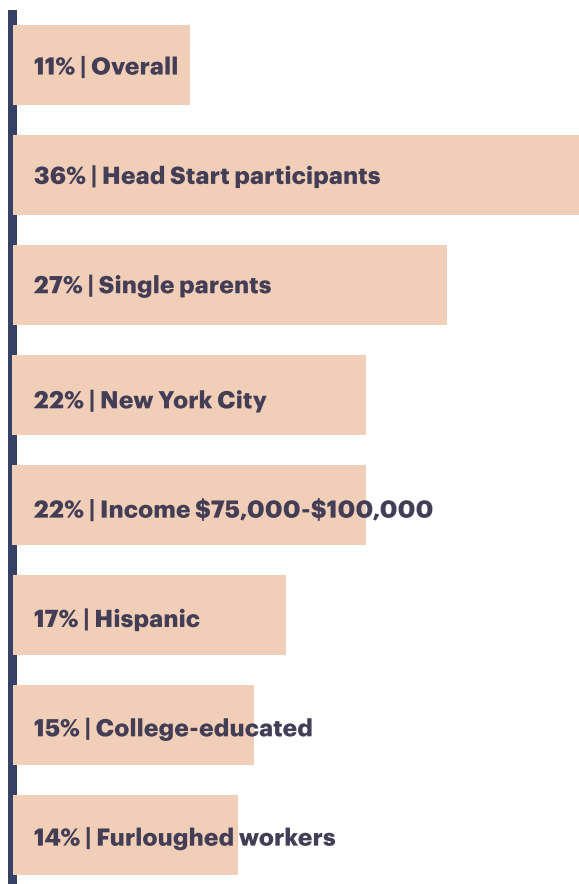
## Many parents of infants and toddlers are facing a food crisis

Have you done any of the following as a result of the coronavirus crisis?

### SKIPPED/REDUCED THEIR OWN MEALS:



### SKIPPED/REDUCED THEIR CHILD'S MEALS:



# The crisis is disrupting the lives and risking the well-being of families with infants and toddlers

Below are some statements about the coronavirus crisis. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each one.

75%



I worry about my and/or my family's mental health as a result of the coronavirus crisis

73%



The coronavirus crisis has significantly disrupted my home and family life

68%



I worry my child's social, emotional, and cognitive development will suffer as a result of the coronavirus crisis

25%



I worry about the impact of issues like substance abuse and domestic violence on my family

**More than 3 in 4 parents of young children are experiencing higher levels of stress**

Would you say your level of stress as a parent is...

1%  
Somewhat lower than usual

19%  
About the same as it usually is

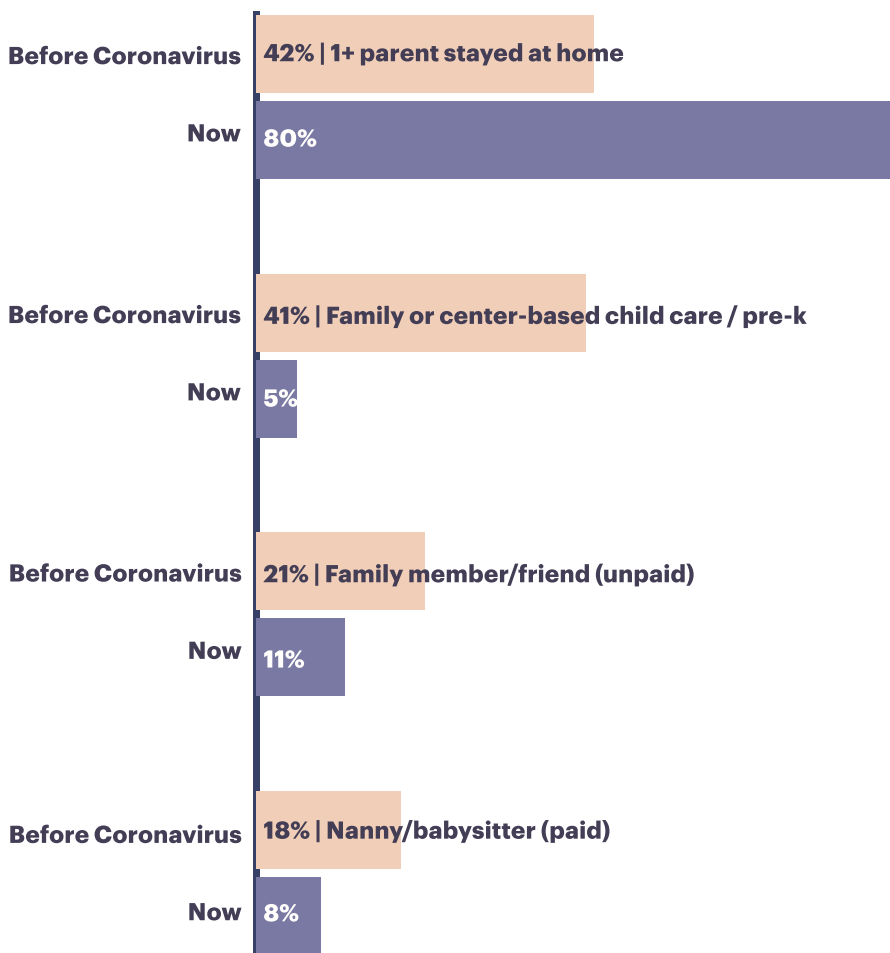
40%  
Somewhat higher than usual

37%  
Much higher than usual

2%  
Much lower than usual

# The child care landscape for infants and toddlers has shifted dramatically

Prior to the coronavirus crisis, what did you do for childcare during work or school hours? What do you do for child care now due to coronavirus?



Please select any of the following that apply to you:

26%



My child's child care/ day care provider closed or modified its hours due to coronavirus

26%



I had to make alternate child care arrangements or stay home with my child due to coronavirus

23%



I pulled my child out of child care/day care due to coronavirus

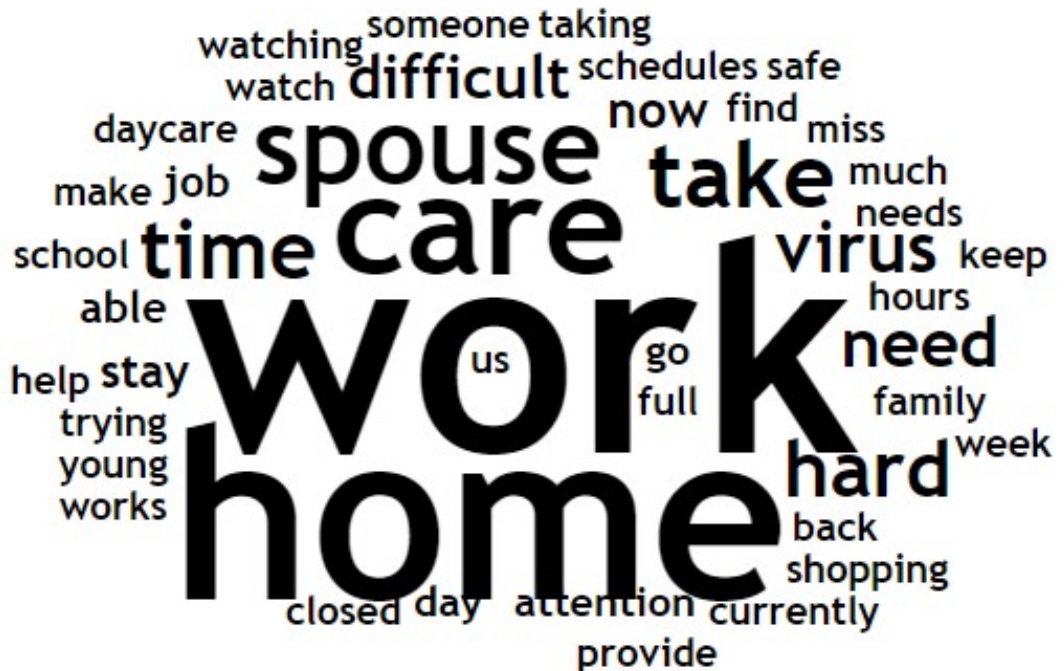
17%



My child's babysitter, nanny, or other caregiver can no longer take care of my child due to the restrictions around coronavirus

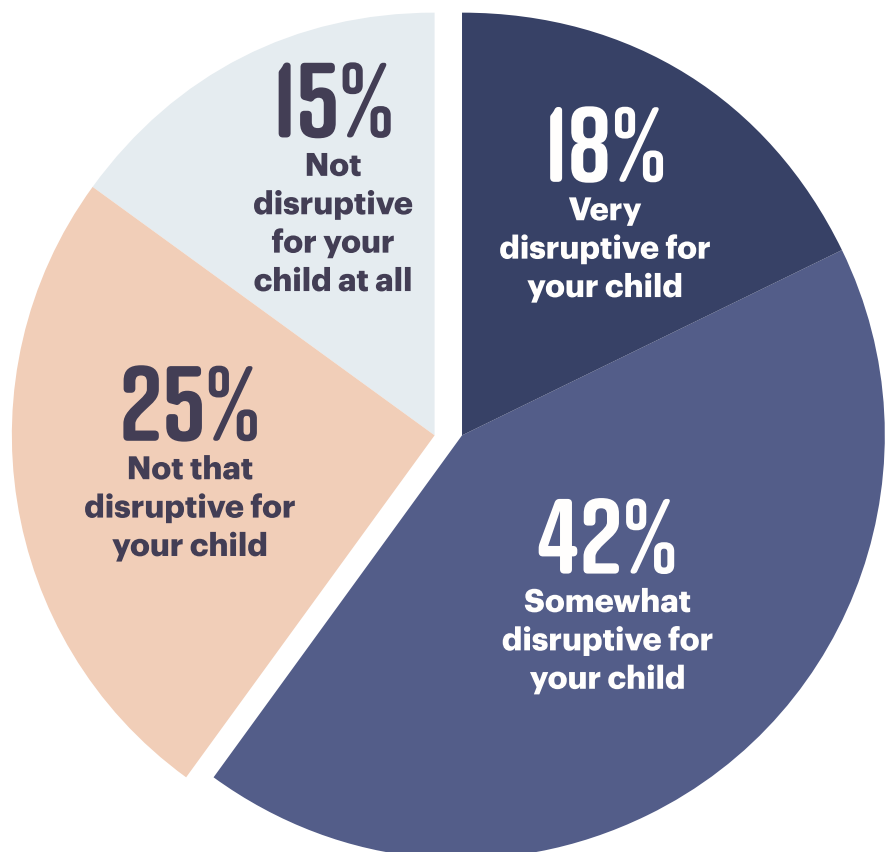
# Most parents of infants and toddlers say their current child care situation is only somewhat workable or is not workable

Why did you say your current child care situation is only somewhat workable/not workable?



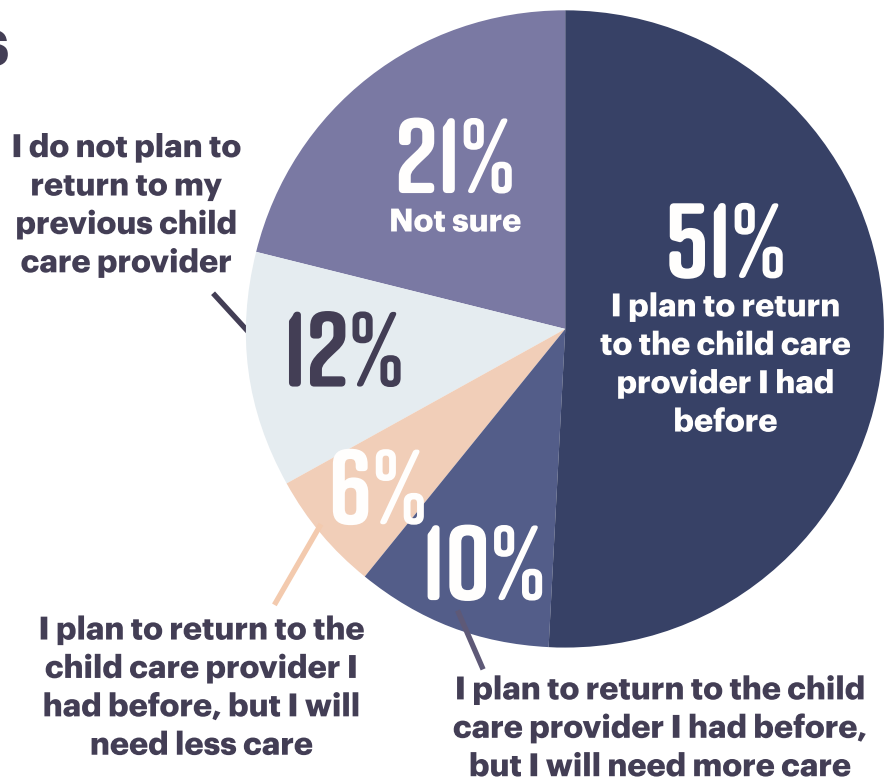
## Parents say the crisis has been disruptive for their infants and toddlers

Would you say the changes to your routine you have had to make as a result of the crisis have been...



## Parents of infants and toddlers are uncertain about child care arrangements when the crisis ends

What do you plan to do for child care once the coronavirus crisis is over?



## More than half of parents who rely on family child care providers and child care centers expect to need additional support to help their children return

When day care and child care centers re-open, do you anticipate your child needing extra support when transitioning back to the child care/pre-school setting? Select all that apply.

50%



Yes, I anticipate my child will need additional support to transition back to school routines after time away

14%



Yes, I anticipate my child will need counseling or other social-emotional supports

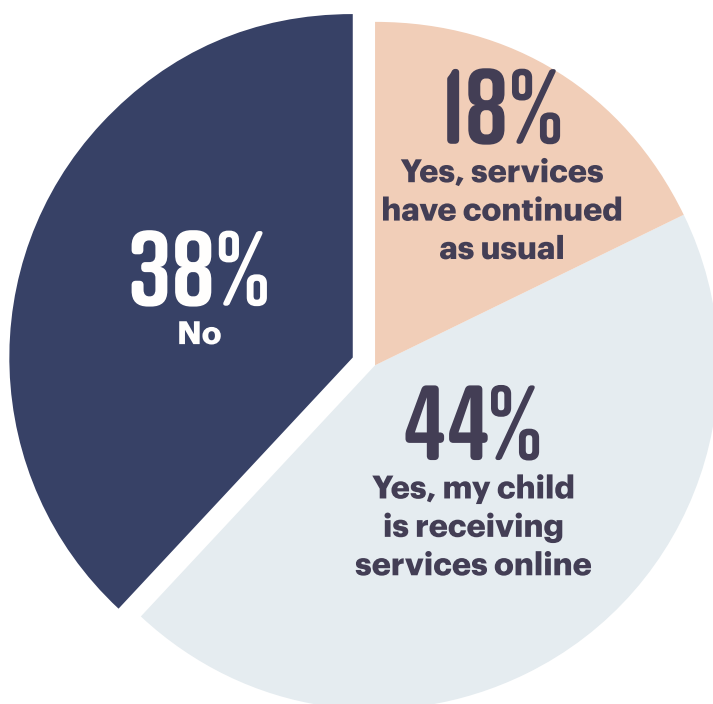
42%



No, I don't think my child will need extra support

**More than 1 in 3 parents of infants and toddlers who rely on Early Intervention, Early Head Start, and home visitation programs that provide coaching for new parents are no longer receiving services**

**Is the child currently receiving services?**



**If no, why is the child currently not receiving services?**

**49%**



**I was not given the option of online services**

**32%**



**I was given the option of online services but did not think they would benefit my child**

**11%**



**I was given the option of online services but did not have the technology (computer, tablet or smartphone, internet access)**

**10%**



**I was given the option of online services but there is not an adult in our household that can participate in the sessions with my child**



# Higher-income parents and unemployed parents have been able to spend the most additional quality time with their infants and toddlers

Percent saying they are spending more or much more quality time with their child as a result of the coronavirus crisis...

**75%**

Parents who  
are employed



**89%**

Parents who are  
unemployed



**72%**

Parents with  
income under  
**\$50,000**

**73%**

Parents with  
income  
**\$50,000-  
\$100,000**

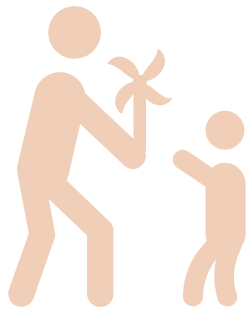
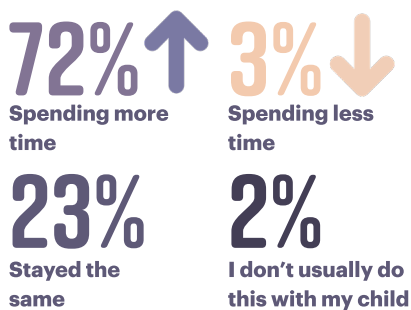
**81%**

Parents with  
income over  
**\$100,000**

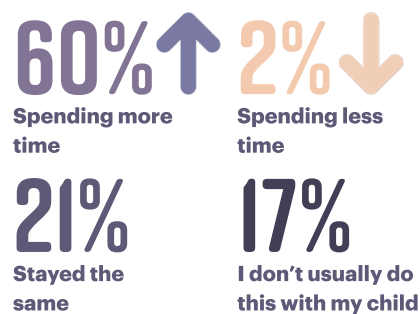
# Parents are spending much more time engaging in indoor activities with their infants and toddlers

Below are some activities that some parents have done with their children while they are at home. For each one, please indicate if the time spent on these activities has increased, decreased or stayed about the same as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

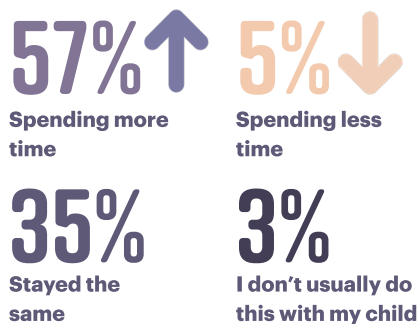
## PLAYING GAMES TOGETHER



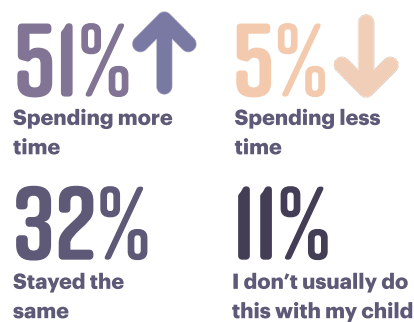
## COOKING TOGETHER



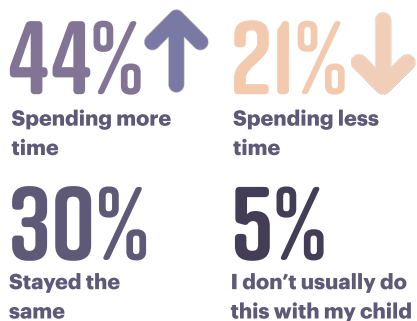
## READING



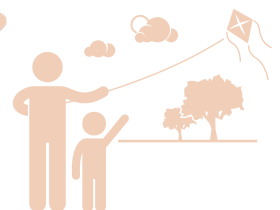
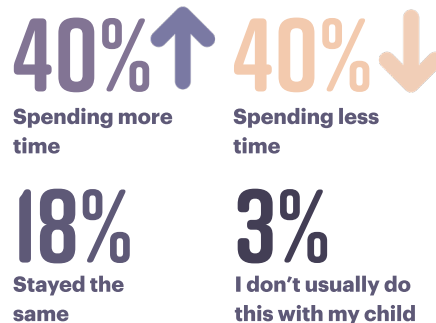
## ARTS AND CRAFTS



## PHYSICAL EXERCISE



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



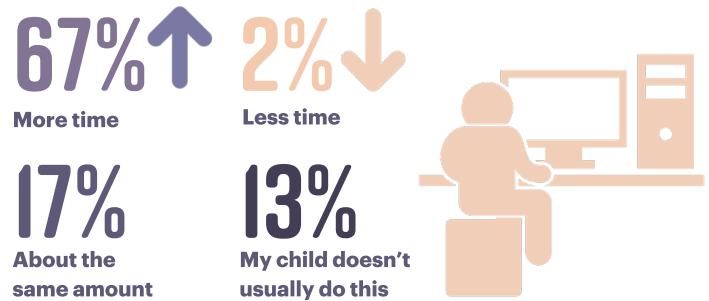
# Infants and toddlers are spending more time watching TV and in front of screens, and less time playing outdoors

Below are some activities your child could be doing while at home. Please indicate if your child is spending more, less or stayed the same as usual doing each activity as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

## WATCHING TV



## USING DEVICES LIKE A COMPUTER/IPAD/TABLET

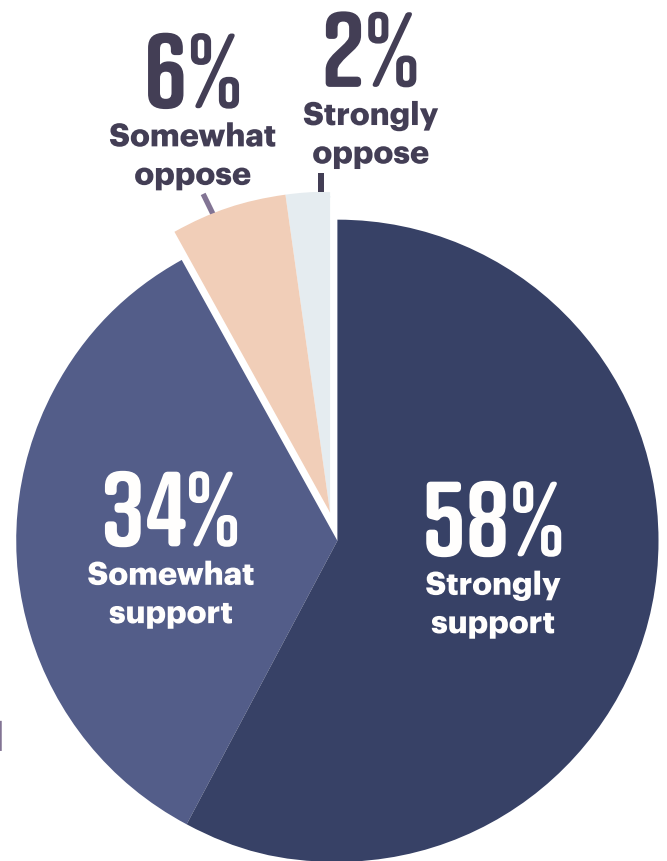


## PLAYING OUTDOORS



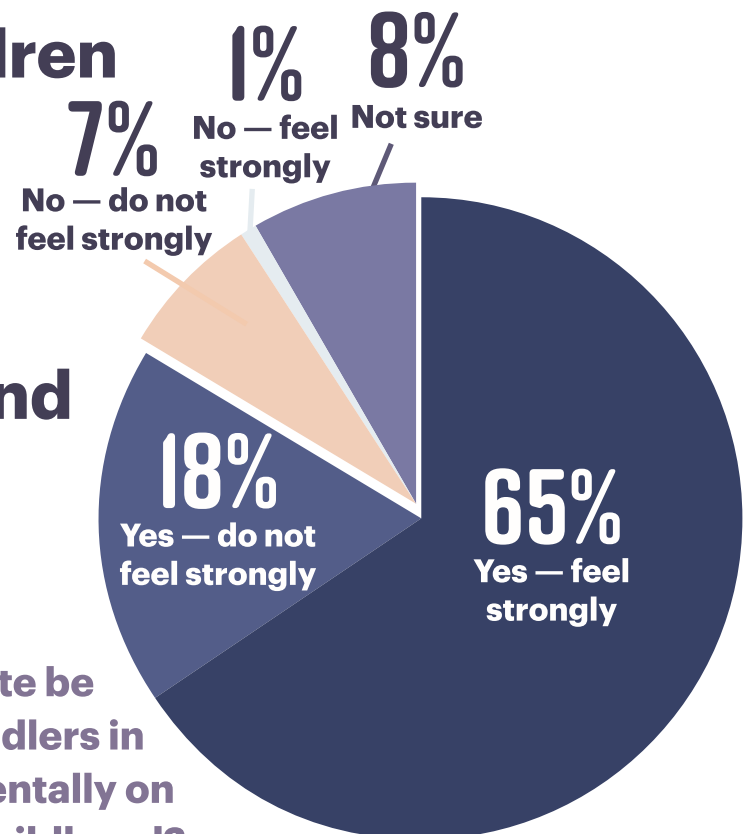
## More than 9 in 10 parents of young children support greater public investment in quality affordable child care

Broadly speaking, do you support or oppose New York State investing more public funds in expanding access to quality, affordable child care/preschool for New York families with young children ages 0 to 3?



## The vast majority of parents of young children believe government should be doing more to ensure infants and toddlers are healthy and developmentally on track

In your opinion, should New York State be doing more to ensure infants and toddlers in New York are healthy and developmentally on track at birth and throughout early childhood?



# Equity Priorities: Action needed now to support struggling parents

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Providing parents with free online resources to use with their children during this time

91% 29%

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## INTERNET ACCESS

Providing free or increased internet access to families

91% 20%

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## TELEHEALTH

Providing parents access to their child's doctor via telehealth through technology like a computer, tablet, or telephone

91% 17%

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## FOOD INSECURITY

Proving meals that parents can pick up in their communities or have delivered to their home

90% 26%

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## FAMILY LEAVE

Providing additional paid or unpaid leave so parents can stay home with their children during the crisis

90% 12%

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## ACTIVITIES

Providing parents with creative activities for children using household items / other ways to limit screen-time

89% 27%

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



# Equity Priorities: Action needed now to support struggling parents *(continued)*

## RESOURCES

Sharing examples of resources to help parents support their child's development while they are at home

**89%** **16%**

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## MEETING FAMILY NEEDS

Connecting parents to resources that can help with food, housing, employment, health, & other needs

**87%** **14%**

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access



## FOOD INSECURITY

Providing ATM-like cards that parents can use to purchase food at local grocery stores

**85%** **12%**

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Providing additional unemployment compensation

**83%** **15%**

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to



## WORKING FROM HOME

Providing tips for parents on how to balance caring for their child while working from home

**82%** **14%**

of parents say it would be helpful

of parents say **have** received or have access to





[RAISINGNY.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](https://raisingny.org/coronavirus)