WASHINGTON'S child care industry thrust into de facto teaching

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Hicks-Maxie, CEO of Tots Maxie Development Center, whose programs include before- and after-school care, had for months faced an onslaught of rules and change because of COVID-19.

Herself plumbmatted by more than half as nervous parents kept their kids home. She worked to make her sites as sterile as a hospital, removing carpeting, having staff wear nursing scrubs washed every night, getting a mask policy for staff and children 4 and up. (The state mandate starts at age 5, with exceptions for eating and outdoor time.) Staff were exhausted from constant cleaning.

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Q&A: The latest on child care availability and what it means for kids out of school

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