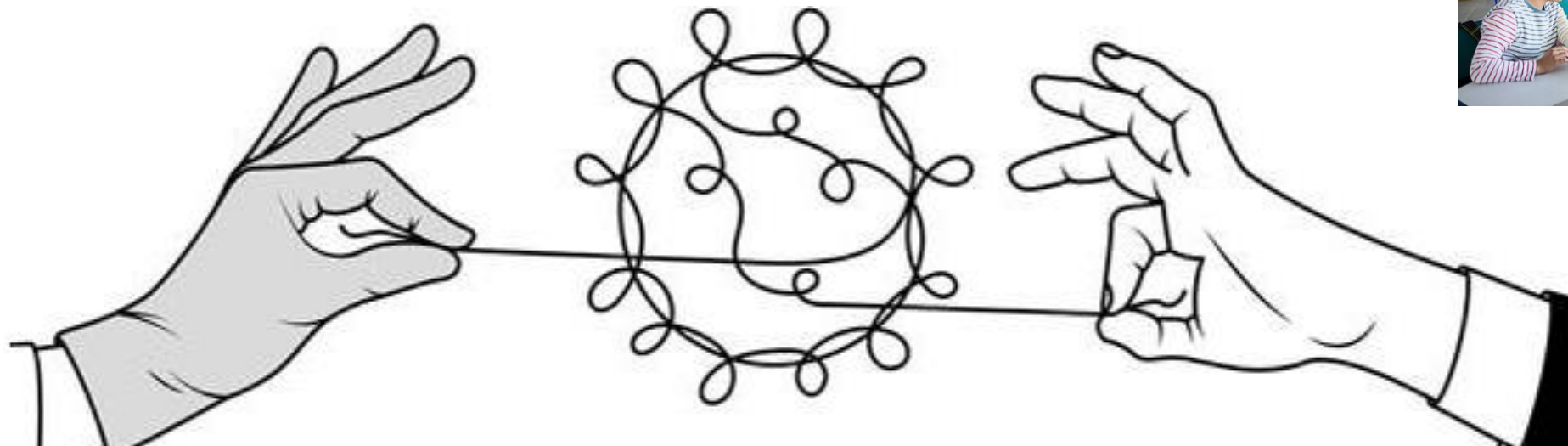


How do we make daycare and schools "safe" in spite of the pandemic? - Panel Discussion



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COVID19: Lockdowns (light) deactivated central functions of school/university/kindergarten...



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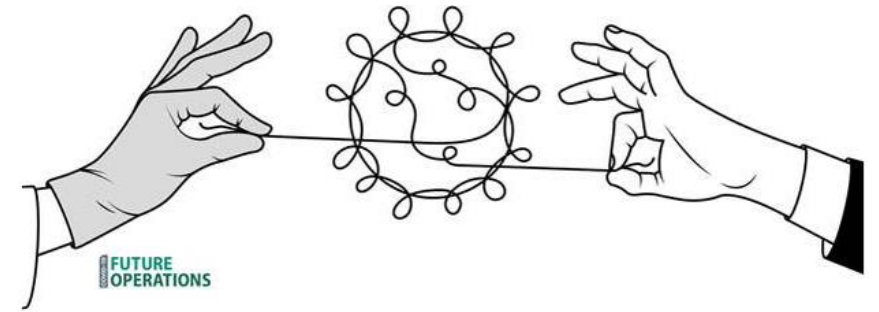
- Structuring of everyday life related to learning
- Exchange with peers (learning from and with them, loneliness)
- Direct observation of learning and acquisition of competencies through personal teaching (direct feedback)
- High level of overall uncertainty, routines are inactive
- Loss of competencies
- Parents/families, teachers felt/feel massively burdened
- Pandemic-related significant increase in mental health problems such as depression, sleep disorders and anxiety disorders, especially among adolescents (e.g. Pieh et al., 2021; Sieberer et al., 2021)



...but also:

- Children of all ages can become infected with SARS-CoV-2 and also transmit the virus
- Immunization rate still relatively low, especially among younger children - proportion of elementary school students comparatively low at 42 percent <https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Themen/HS-Uni/Aktuelles/Impfquote.html> (22.5.2022)
- Children have a lower likelihood of a serious illness or fatal outcome than other age groups. But both also exist for children
- The burden of COVID-19 and its long-term effects on children is the subject of ongoing research

Man questions remain unanswered... kindergarten and schools are places where the challenges of the pandemic become very evident virologically as well as psychosocially - and have been discussed very controversial.



Experts of the panel discussion

- **Deepti Gurdasani** (Queen Mary University of London, UK) - Quantitative data regarding children and Covid19 (online)
- **Thomas Müller** (Innsbruck University Clinic for Pediatrics) - Consequences for the physical health of children and adolescents
- **Michael Wagner** (University of Vienna) - Infection prevention in kindergarten and schools
- **Paul Plener** (MedUni Vienna) - Consequences for the mental health of children and adolescents
- **Mario Steiner** (Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna, IHS) - Consequences for educational equity