

My Job Is to Take Care of My Children

Lilit Abrahamyan

BEFORE YOU READ: What do you think was hardest for families with small children who had to adapt to the pandemic?

When my older daughter was a baby, our favorite place was the Tompkins County Library where they had baby story time every week. Ithaca is a small city and there are not too many places to go with children. In the library, she could play and communicate with other children. However, the library closed due to the pandemic.

My daughter became a little bit nervous during the pandemic because she did not have her usual activities, and I mostly kept her inside. When we did go outside, she did not understand

social distancing. The pandemic took away many of the little joys of being a child.

My husband, a researcher at Cornell University, started working remotely from home. Of

course, it is good when he is close to me and we can see him anytime. However, at home, it is very hard for him to concentrate and work effectively. It took my daughter a whole year to understand that when Dad is working, she shouldn't disturb him. But she still interrupts him and insists on him playing with her.

My second child was born in 2020, and he brings a lot of happiness to our life. When he was born, I was alone with him in the hospital. My husband and daughter weren't allowed to visit us because of the pandemic. However, the doctors agreed to allow my husband to see our son for a few minutes.

Even though I am unemployed, the pandemic has touched my life as well. My job has been to take care of my children. I tried to keep them safe



from the virus, but I could see that the pandemic was hard on them emotionally. How has the pandemic affected small children? How will it change the future of our children? These questions do not yet have answers. We need more research about the impact of the pandemic on our children.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. Based on the text, how was the pandemic emotionally hard on the author's children?
2. Discuss the questions that Lilit raises in the last paragraph.

Lilit Abrahamyan is an ESL student at Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES Adult Education, in Ithaca, NY. She is from Armenia where she worked as an accountant. Her husband is a researcher at Cornell University; he works in the field of accelerator physics. Her goal is to improve her English and find a job as an accountant.