

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a public preschool teacher and I would like to take a moment to tell you what I am seeing on a daily basis. Research tells us that young children learn to communicate and learn things like empathy through facial expressions. Nonverbal communication, such as facial gestures and expressions, constitutes 55% of our overall communication. A recent article from The Vision Times, February 7, 2022, states that speech pathologists are seeing a 364% soar in speech delays. As a preschool teacher, I, too am seeing a staggering number of children coming in with speech delays and articulation problems. To those working in this field, the obvious culprit is the mask.

Numerous publications all over the world have voiced a common theme when it comes to our youngest learners and COVID. They are virtually unaffected by the virus. About 70% of my students have had Covid thus far and their parents report that it was nothing more than a cold for their child. Very few reported also having a fever. They were back to normal within the week.

So why then do they need to continue masking?. There are only 7 states in the country that are asking children under the age of 5 to mask up. This small number, to me, shows that they know it is not necessary and detrimental to our youngest learners. They drop them on the floor, in the bathroom, get food on them. The amount of germs on them, surpasses any good they do as the CDC just came out with findings that cloth masks don't even work well.

I ask that you deny any emergency powers to the Governor. This has gone on FAR too long. I also ask that you do away with any and all mandates like many other states and countries are announcing they are doing. It is time to get back to learning for these children, unmasked and unrestricted.

Sincerely,

Connie Sharp