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Graham Paine/Metroland

Anneliese Lawton, like many parents, is seeing the efforts of pandemic-related restrictions on her young children, including Jack.

BORN INTO A PANDEMIC WORLD

BABIES, TODDLERS AND PARENTS FEELING IMPACT OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

MELANIE HENNESSEY
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While the pandemic's effects on school-aged children and adults has been much discussed, there's another demographic

feeling the brunt of the past year that can't quite verbalize it yet.

Today's infants and toddlers have spent much of their lives seeing only their parents and siblings due to stay-at-home orders and other pandemic restrictions,

limiting their interactions with the outside world to socially-distanced hellos from grandparents and FaceTime calls with loved ones.

"Physical distancing, wearing masks and other precautions has

presented a different world," said Carla Giavedoni, program manager with Reach out Centre for Kids (ROCK), which has locations in Halton Hills and across the region.

"Our faces and facial expressions are fundamental to social interactions and communication. For infants and toddlers, and their social development, this can be challenging with

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