Ideas & Activities for Families During COVID-19

As schools close, activities pause and states issue stay-at-home orders, we have a unique opportunity to "go within" and connect deeply with our families. We hope the below activities will help foster peace with our children, inspire fun with our families and shine a healing light of love upon our world. We're all in this together!

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Put Our Peace Pledge Into Action

I pledge to use my words to speak in a kind way.

- Sing a happy song! Go curbside caroling with your family; create a
 music video and share far and wide; sing from your window like the
 Italians, or simply sing along with the radio.
- List all the things that make you happy.
- Send Peaceful Pen Pal letters to other kids in the USA. Sign up here.
- Create an entry for the "I Am Powerful" Kids for Peace Book "Contest." This will be our 5th book. Learn more: Flier & Book Entry Form.
- Write and mail a card through our <u>Loving Letters for Grandfriends</u> <u>project</u>. Send cheer to a senior citizen who can no longer receive visitors due to the COVID-19 situation. <u>Learn More & Sign Up.</u>
- Hold gratitude circles at dinnertime.
- Call or FaceTime friends, Grandparents, or Grandfriends just to say hello
- Make up a poem with a positive message.
- Write positive messages on Post-It Notes and place on mirrors in your house.
- Make Peace Rocks. Paint rocks with kind words and place them around town to delight your neighbors.

I pledge to help others as I go throughout my day.

- <u>Surprise delivery drivers with a gratitude gift</u>. Place a note and a gift of food, water, gift cards, a toilet paper roll, etc. in a basket by your front door. #ThankYourDeliveryDriver.
- Create a "<u>Take what you need. Leave what you can.</u>" container for your neighborhood.
- From our friends at <u>The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation</u>, post these <u>notes</u> and offer to help your neighbors! (Please don't interact directly; just leave the note on the door.)
- Sew facemasks for nurses and doctors.
- Do household chores without being asked make your bed, pick up your toys, clean your room/bathroom.







ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS CONT'D

I pledge to help others as I go througout my day cont'd

- Let's show our healthcare workers how much we appreciate them with #AppreciationPizzas!
- Whenever possible, avoid time with people outside your family to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Offer to pick up mail or run errands for elderly neighbors and leave shopping bags on their doorstep. Use the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation form or give your neighbors a call.

I pledge to care for our earth with my healing heart and hands.

- Check out the <u>one-click actions</u> from our friends at Roots and Shoots.
- Take a hike or visit the beach and pick up litter along the way (remember to keep the 6 feet distance from others!) #SixFeetOfKindness.
- Learn about recycling in your community and discover something new.
- Water your plants, pick weeds.
- Harvest seeds from fruits and replant them.
- Learn about composting and practice in your own garden.

I pledge to respect people in each and every land.

- Show compassion to end harassment towards Asians who might be experiencing racial discrimination because of COVID-19 fears.
- Discover something new about a different culture or a different country.
- Listen to music from different parts of the world.
- Pick at least one country from each continent and discover their favorite food/dish.

I pledge to join together as we unite the big and small.

- Let's safely celebrate birthdays with a <u>Happy Birthday Party Parade</u>! Click <u>here</u> for step by step tips on how to coordinate a successful and safe car parade.
- <u>Loving Letters for Grandfriends</u>. Sign up a senior to receive loving letters or sign up to write loving letters to seniors! <u>Learn More & Sign Up</u>.
- Send letters or cards to Senior Homes, Memory Care, Hospice facilities since they are not able to have visitors at this time.
- Spend time taking care of your pet feed them, brush them, walk them, clean up after them.

I pledge to do my part to create PEACE for one and all.

- Chalk your walk.
- Stay strong and healthy with this <u>One Month PE Challenge</u> created by Coach K, the PE teacher from Reynolds Elementary in Oceanside, CA.
- Design your own string of peace flags using old clothes, paint, or whatever materials you have available at home.
- Create a <u>kind rainbow</u>.
- Practice <u>mindful breathing exercises</u>.
- Do <u>yoga</u>.









FUN ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

- NEW: Let's unite, bring hope and set a Guinness World Record with our Linked By Love longest paper chain ever!
- NEW: Take a Breather Break 5 deep breaths to calm and comfort.
- NEW: Check out our <u>One-Minute Wonders</u> and keep your family moving with a simple circuit workout!
- NEW: Celebrate Earth Day with our COVID Cardboard Creations.
- Jot down what you are missing the most and add it to your <u>Someday</u> Soon Jar. Soon you will be able to enjoy it again!
- Stay safe and spread some smiles with an <u>Undercover Smiles Facemask</u> project!
- Organize a <u>Happy House Hunt</u> or a <u>fun scavenger hunt</u> at home.
- Create a <u>Covid-19 Time Capsule from Long Creations</u>.
- Send a Hug to your loved ones.
- Safely celebrate birthdays with a Happy Birthday Party Parade! <u>Learn</u> more and see the joy!
- Download our <u>Great Kindness Challenge- Family Edition checklist</u> and complete as many items as possible from home.
- Join our <u>Happy Heart Hunt</u>. Let's blanket our world with LOVE! It's simple! Just make a heart from any object and tape it to a street-facing window to send your love out to the world. Encourage all your friends to do the same. Then, in a few days, take a family walk to search for other hearts on houses. How fun it will be to watch the love grow! Learn More.
- Host Family Game Night get out the board games, decks of cards, chess sets and puzzles.
- Create an obstacle course with things from your home.
- Have a spontaneous dance party! Crank the tunes and DANCE!!
- Play charades.
- Clean your closets together. (Seriously!) Put on some fun music and then joyfully declutter. Keep only the things that are useful and spark joy.
- Create a family "masterpiece" out of <u>recycled items</u> from your decluttering.
- Listen to a podcast: "Wow in the World".
- Learn on-line together.
- Teach your child a skill or a share a talent. Teach them to cook, change a tire, sew on a button, balance a checkbook, play the ukulele, etc.
- Go on a scavenger hunt.
- Explore nature. Continue to spend time outdoors. The fresh air is good for kids, and for us as parents. But please do this as a family rather than meeting up in groups.











VIRTUAL PLAYDATES AND CONNECTIONS

- Use a free video platform to connect with other kids. Zoom, FaceTime, Skype, WhatsApp and Google Hangouts are some of our go-tos.
- Lego Masters Create a LEGO challenge amongst a group of friends. Give the kids a timeframe to create. Send pictures of final creation on a video platform.
- Start a virtual book club for kids.
- Take a <u>Virtual Museum Tour</u> together.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS

How to talk about COVID-19 with your children

- Meet children where they are.
- Help them feel like they're in control.
- Be realistic about them getting sick.
- Provide reassurance.
- Keep up a normal routine.

Sources/learn more:

NEW: How To Care For Your Kids' Mental Health During The COVID-19 Pandemic

Social Distancing - a PSA from Carlsbad High School Students

A cool way to show kids how easily germs travel from one child to the next!

 $\underline{https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus}$

https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/how-to-talk-to-children-about-the-coronavirus-2020030719111

Self-care Ideas

We must remember to take care of ourselves so we can take good care of our children!

- 1. Seek accurate information from legitimate sources & set limits around news on COVID-19.
- 2. Look after yourself exercise & meditate.
- 3. Reach out to others and support people around you.
- 4. Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking.
- 5. Acknowledge your feelings.
- 6. Take time to talk with your children about the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 7. Ask for professional support.
- 8. Remember you are not alone.

Sources/learn more:

https://www.mhe-sme.org/covid-19/

https://www.verywellmind.com/managing-coronavirus-anxiety-4798909





TIPS FOR PARENTS CONT'D

Create a Routine

While you are home with your children, a routine will be helpful for both your kids and you! We love to make plans, but stay flexible and leave room for the "magic" of the moment to happen.

- Use school as the framework and honor what had been your child's routine.
- Dedicate time for play.
- Schedule in some easy indoor activities.
- Go to recess.
- Make a screen time routine.

Sources/learn more:

https://time.com/5803373/coronavirus-kids-at-home-activities/https://busytoddler.com/2020/03/indoor-activities/

COVID-19 DAILY SCHEDULE

Before 9:00am	Wake up	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, put PJ's in laundry
9:00-10:00	Morning walk	Family walk with the dog Yoga if it's raining
10:00-11:00	Academic time	NO ELECTRONICS Soduku books, flash cards, study guide, Journal
11:00-12:00	Creative time	Legos, magnatiles, drawing, crafting, play music, cook bake, etc
12:00	Lunch	
12:30PM	Chore time	A- wipe all kitchen table and chairs. B - wipe all door handles, light switches, and desk top G - Wipe both bathrooms - sinks and toilets
1:00-2:30	Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, nap
2:30-4:00	Academic time	ELECTRONICS OK Ipad games, Prodigy, Educational show
4:00-5:00	Afternoon fresh air	Bikes, Walk the dog, play outside
5:00-6:00	Dinner	
6:00-8:00	Free TV time	Kid showers x3
8:00	Bedtime	All kids

INSPIRATION

- Some Good News with John Krasinski
- A message of hope from Dr. Jane Goodall, our 2010 Peace Hero
- This beautiful poem puts everything in perspective.
 Lockdown Hope for Humanity



