

Parenting Through Covid19 – One city. One Effort

by Chris Cavanagh, Denise Wright & Kaya Nash (Liverpool City council, Early Help Team and contributions from citywide partner organisations).

If like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had you and your family wondering what it means for you all, I totally understand. It is a natural reaction because the way we managed our day-to-day lives and our family life has fundamentally changed. Before you know it normality will be resumed and we can look back and reflect, knowing that Liverpool has come together as a city to work collectively again to help each other.

Terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and social lockdowns have entered our vocabularies and have become part of our normal lives. Other more positive discussions are also emerging around terms such as community, resilience and support.

The long-term implications are not yet known, but as a parent and a professional who supports families, I believe that the support that is offered and information you are able to access can help you get through these times. While keeping children and ourselves healthy and safe is our main concern, it is also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. You will find some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe.

The offer of services to support families and young people in Liverpool continues, this is offered in a different way through telephone and video calls.

My children are all adults now but I think back to the days when we played computer games together, like FIFA on the Playstation. I must admit that as they got older I didn't stand much of a chance of winning, but it was a chance for me to spend time with them and have fun. My generation grew up with console games, maybe this is the time to bring that dusty controller out of retirement and have a game of Mario or FIFA. Just a reminder –FIFA 20 is the current game and it's much slicker than FIFA 98!

Liverpool has always pulled together as a city in times of adversity and it is no different now, our workers are being as innovative as ever to bring together resources to make the time you are spending as a parent as light and fun as possible.

The amazing work by our partner organisations and volunteers across the city highlights that together we will continue supporting people in this city and helping to improve lives.

Within this blog you will find information to support you and your family and we will be posting new information as we receive it.

Local Organisational Support

The Liverpool CAMHS Partnership is adapting as Coronavirus impacts our everyday lives. Our partners are working hard to ensure children, young people and families get the support they need during this time. This document outlines the support available from each partner and how this support can be accessed.



CAMHS Partnership
COVID-19 comms.pdf

Top Tips

To help parents interact constructively with their children during this time of confinement, these six one-page tips for parents cover planning one-on-one time, staying positive, creating a daily routine, avoiding bad behaviour, managing stress, and talking about COVID-19. Use them to your and your kids' advantage, and have fun in doing so.



Tip-1- ONE ON ONE
TIME - covid-19-parer



Tip-2- KEEPING IT
POSITIVE - covid-19-ç



Tip-3- STRUCTURE
UP - covid-19-parenti



Tip-4- MANAGING
BEHAVIOUR -covid-1ç



Tip-5- KEEP CALM
AND MANAGE STRES



Tip-6- TALKING
ABOUT COVID 19 - cc

Parenting Guides

These guides are free interactive online parenting guides for parents and families in Liverpool.

These guides are based on real evidence about how babies develop in the womb, through infancy and throughout childhood and adolescence. Liverpool parents, carers and grandparents can learn about the stages their children go through and how to strengthen relationships with them in ways that will have lasting positive impact for the whole family.

Within these guides, written by the Solihull Approach (NHS), you can find advice and information on:

- The amazing and developing brains of babies and children
- The importance of playing, singing, reading with your child
- Parenting styles and tips
- Overcoming challenges with things like behaviour and sleep
- The huge value of good communication

If you live in Liverpool* then you are eligible to access these online guides for free. Visit **[inourplace.co.uk](https://www.inourplace.co.uk)** and enter the following access code: PURPLEBIN



Solihull Online
Leaflet (Print) FINAL.p

Pregnant or New Mums

Advice for pregnant women - <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

Coronavirus and caring for your baby - <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice/coronavirus-and-caring-for-your-baby/>

Breastfeeding - <https://www.breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Home Learning

Parents who may need to work and juggle childcare will feel like they have to fill their children's gap for learning. While no-one expects them to replicate school, there is plenty of online help to stave off boredom. There are lots of arts and craft activities and lots of these help with language, vocabulary and mathematics. Here are some useful websites for home learning ideas:

BrainPop - offers animated movies on topics in maths, science and English <https://brainpop.com/>

Tynker - offers coding lessons for kids <https://www.tynker.com/>

Everton Nursery support for children aged 0-5 years and online stories read by staff - <http://www.evertonnurseryschoolandfamilycentre.org/home-learning-activities.html>

Reading for different ages - <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

Tips for reading with your children - <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

Local Author Frank Cottrell-Boyce daily reading for older children – Instagram [Frank_cottrell_boyce](https://www.instagram.com/frank_cottrell_boyce)

Leap Frog learning resources for children 0-5 years - https://t7.leapfrog.com/images/l/LeapStart-Parent-Resource-Guide-100217_en-gb.pdf

Phonics and reading tips for parents - <https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/children/2018/how-to-teach-your-child-phonics/>

English and Maths for all levels <https://uk.ixl.com/math/>

Home learning resources <https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning>

Storytelling and yoga - <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

Remember that while learning is important at this time of unprecedented uncertainty, so are family activities, such as having fun and getting out of the house (where appropriate).

Museums and Places to visit (online)

Visit places like museums and zoos online, they offer great activities for children to learn about all sorts of interesting things, like history, wildlife and artists:

Visit **Chester Zoo** and see the animals on their virtual tours www.chesterzoo.org

Visit **Tate Liverpool** to learn about artists with lots of arty activities www.tate.org.uk/kids

Or the **Museum of London** games and resources:

https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/schools/learning-resources?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=mol-teachersnetwork&utm_campaign=onlineresources-march2020&utm_term=learning-resources-lead-text&utm_content=button&dm_i=3BMS,10Q50,4A12MT,3VL61,1

Make Time to Play

Children can learn so much through play. You might not feel like playing much at the moment, but playing can be a great escape and can really help to take your mind off things. You might want to plan a short play activity for each day, this can really make a difference to your child's mood and behaviour. Playing together can really help prevent problem behaviour which may stem from boredom whilst also maintaining and strengthening family relationships. Making time to play together also creates even more ideas for playing and can create opportunities to talk about your child's interests, or any other worries they might have. Finding a good time in the day to play is important, you might plan to play something after breakfast for younger children to get them in a contented mood for the day, or later in the evening for older children, or as a whole family. There are lots of games to play outside too while you go on your daily walk, such as I spy, or you could look for rainbows together that children are making and displaying in their windows (and make your own rainbows). You might want to encourage your children to use apps like Zoom or Skype so they can stay in touch with their friends and family.

Some Ideas for Playing Together

Play board games together, traditional games like Monopoly, Cleudo, Ludo or games like Connect 4, Checkers, Battleships, Guess Who, Snakes and Ladders and Jenga are fun for two players or more. You might want to invent your own games, lots of games only need paper and pencil, such as Pictionary, where you guess each other's words through drawing, or games such as treasure hunts, where you can make your own clues. Playing card games like Chace the Ace, Snap, or Patience can keep children entertained for a long time (and can really boost mathematical skills).

Start to collect materials for your own art and craft kit, you can collect cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, tin foil, food packaging, buttons, bits of fabric, yoghurt pots, old milk bottles. Add scissors, pencils, paint and glue to your kit (according to your child's age) and these will keep your child amused for hours. You might help young children to make their own book all about them, with their own drawings in, these could be based on one of their favourite topics like Outer Space, Super Hero's, Forests or Magical Kingdoms. Books can happen inside shoe boxes, on cardboard or on paper! Use **audio books** to listen to a story and then write a summary / draw the story <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

See more about the importance of play and lots of ideas for activities: **Importance of spending quality time with your little one** - <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-for-parents/things-to-do-with-your-child/>

Or visit **Creative Bug** -this offers craft lessons, from knitting to jewellery-making, drawing and origami <https://www.creativebug.com/>

You might **learn an instrument**, there are plenty of free online sites that teach children to play an instrument. Go to www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/music.

Play Virtual chess: <https://www.chess.com/play/computer>

Baking together is also a great activity, home-made cakes and biscuits can be a lot tastier and healthier than the ones you buy in the shops and you can control how much sugar goes into them!

Join Miranda Gore Brow for lots of ideas for children and adults to bake together www.mirandagorebrowne.co.uk/bake-together or www.bbc.goodfood.com/recipes

Or visit www.bakingmad.com

Six Ways to Maintain a Routine

In normal circumstances, it's hard to argue that there is something wonderful about those rare days at home, where you can get up late, stay in your pyjamas and sit around the house without any major commitments to worry about. In the current climate however, finding some sense of routine while at home could be more important than ever.

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/six-ways-to-maintain-routine-while-at-home>

Managing Your Own Wellbeing

There is a wealth of online support available for families and we hope you have been able to access some of this for yourselves.

A whole host of celebrities have removed pay walls to their online classes. These include, Joe Wicks, Carol Vorderman, Ben Fogle, Marlene Klaus and other You Tubers your kids will actually have heard of! You may find it useful to build an age and stage appropriate 'timetable' for yourselves and also for families you are working with.

Headspace App Mindfulness for your everyday life. www.headspace.com and www.headspace.com/covid-19

Kooth Kooth is an online counselling and emotional wellbeing platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use.

Visit via the website www.kooth.com, this Mental Health support is for children and young people aged 14-25 years

SANeline

If you're experiencing a mental health problem or supporting someone else, you can call SANeline on 0300 304 7000 (4.30pm–10.30pm every day).

YoungMinds

Provides support and advice to parents and carers worried about the emotional wellbeing or behaviour of a young person in their care with confidential expert advice. www.youngminds.org.uk

Parents Helpline – call 0808 802 5544

OCD Action www.ocdaction.org.uk A place for support and information to anybody affected by OCD helpline: 0845 390 6232 (Mon-Fri, 9:30am - 5pm)

Domestic Abuse advice and helplines - <https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/crime-and-safety/domestic-abuse/>

Princes Trust Coronavirus Support Hub - <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/coronavirus-response/resource-centre>

Mental health while isolating - <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-while-self-isolating/>

Joe Wicks P.E sessions on You Tube - <https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html>

Employment Opportunities

For those of you seeking for work, there are many new opportunities. Did you know that your local children's centre can offer the support you need to help you return to work, such as help with preparing a CV? Call your local centre to find out the many ways they can support you to find or return to work.

For current vacancies (from age sixteen+) please visit Liverpool in Work www.liverpoolinwork.gov

Lots of supermarkets have immediate vacancies for store assistants and shelf stackers:

Asda - Drop CV in store or visit www.asda.jobs

Aldi - send CV or drop off at store

B&M- Drop CV in store

Co-op- drop CV in store or visit <https://jobs.coop.co.uk>

LIDL- <http://careers/lidl.co.uk>

Morrisons. Visit www.morrisons.jobs

Marks and Spencers. <http://careers.marks&spencer.com>

Hospital Cleaners also wanted immediately, call Census Jobs on 0151 443 6858/6878 or visit www.censusjobs.co.uk

Antrec Online Training are offering online packages for taxi and private hire drivers for those age 19+, in receipt of benefits or on low wage. Visit antrec@antreclimited.com

More opportunities can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52040539