



COVID-19 Survival Guide

What to do with your home bound kids!

Your feeds are full of ways to deal with the COVID-19 virus. Suggestions abound from nurses, the world health organization and your friend on Facebook who thinks he/she knows everything! But as schools and businesses close what most people are really asking themselves is “What are we going to do with our kids being home all the time?”

I’ve put together a list of suggestions for you that might help answer the, “I don’t know what to do” queries at your house! Here they are and I hope some of them work for you!

1. **Create/Work on hobbies.** Do you stamp collect, coin collect or watch birds? Now is the time to get your collection in order and brainstorm on how to grow and display/store your collection! Get all those old comic books organized. Put your trading cards in order in notebooks! Study your hobby online! Here’s a great list of possible hobbies to get you started!

<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/money/this-list-50-low-cost-hobbies-will-excite-you-2.html>

2. **Trading cards.** In addition to create and work on hobbies here is a fun thing that will provide multiple activities for your kids! Go on Amazon or eBay and buy a full box of trading cards. You can find boxes of 20-36 packs of cards for \$5-\$10 online. Get some your kids enjoy like Disney or their favorite sport or superhero. The first fun thing to do is open them. That is fun in itself! Then have your kids sort, trade or organize them. Challenge them to create games with them. You should get enough doubles that you can play memory with them! Trading card collecting is a fun hobby and relatively inexpensive! Ask your kids to come up with ideas that they can do with the cards! Search non-sport trading cards on www.ebay.com or www.amazon.com.

3. **Pull out the board games** (they are called board/bored games for a reason!). You can play them in traditional ways but why not do something new with them? Set out several games and have a marathon with prizes going to the winner of each game and a grand prize to whoever wins the most games! If you have older kids who might tend towards winning every game give them a handicap to even the playing field. They can only use one hand, or they can’t have double turns from getting matching numbers on dice, or they can only sing when they talk! Make a goofy looking traveling trophy out of stuff around your house and have a tournament every week! And while you are at it why not try making your own board games? Check out these do-it-yourself ideas for board games <https://www.wisebread.com/8-amazing-board-games-you-can-diy> and if you need ideas to keep thing even check out the game Quelf at <http://www.spinmastergames.com/game-detail.php?pid=p10391>

4. **Put on a Talent show.** Have your kids come up with a talent show. Talents could include singing, playing a musical instrument, reading a poem, doing a skit or scene from a play, Bible story or movie or maybe just telling some fun jokes! Do you a budding magician or balloon artist? YouTube can provide lots of fun lessons to help them be entertaining! Invite grandma and grandpa over and let them perform! And don’t forget prizes! Learn a new talent on www.youtube.com!

5. **Dramatize your favorite Bible story, movie, tv show, book or cartoon series!** Got a Scooby Doo mystery to solve? Why not create a short play? And with Scooby Doo even your dog can get in the act! Put on your own production of the “Three Musketeers”. Do your version of the “Hobbit”.

Whatever you love, recreate it in your own style! (Of course, you will have to find an audience. See note on Grandpa and Grandma above!) Here are some cool ideas for writing plays with kids!

<https://www.teachkidshow.com/teach-your-child-how-to-write-and-produce-a-play/>

6. **Get a jump start on your garden.** Go outside (you should be doing this as often as possible anyway) and let your kids help you plan, develop and plant your garden. This also guarantees a few minutes everyday when your gang will want to go outside to see if anything is growing yet! Or get chickens if you can so your kids get to have an Easter egg hunt every day! Be sure to check out Hydroponics gardening on the internet! There are some cool things to do inside if the weather is keeping you in! You can plant a whole head of lettuce in a mason jar! Here is a pretty cool site for hydroponics for kids! <https://www.epicgardening.com/hydroponics-for-kids/>

7. **Write to a pen pal!** There are a lot of great organizations online to help your kids find a pen pal! Writing to someone from another country is an eye-opening experience for kids. And a great opportunity to learn about another cultures. You need to use caution in selecting services that help connect pen pals. Most of these organizations are great at putting pen pals together but you need to make sure they only connect kids to kids and do not share information. One great idea is to become pen pals with the children of the missionaries your church supports! Not only can they give your kids fun information on the culture they live in, but your kids can help keep their pen pal up to date on what is happening in their homeland!

8. **Make something!** It's always fun to make things! Some things can be simple to do like Legos, Marble works and coloring. Check out these two websites for printable activities like crafts, puzzles and games that your kids can do at home! www.dltk-kids.com and www.enchantedlearning.com are two great sites where you can find lots of great "Make-it" projects. And by the way don't throw all those TP tubes from your hoarded toilet paper away! They are the foundation building block for most crafts!

9. **Do a Missions project.** Find out if your church has any projects going for missions or local outreach that your kids can be involved in. Operation Christmas child is a great outreach for your kids to begin learning how to care for those in need around the world. While shoeboxes are normally collected just before Christmas time, they can be packed all year round. Check their program at www.samaritanspurse.org . You will also find some fun ideas for local missions projects at <http://www.angelamillsbooks.com/homegrown-mom/family/homegrown-kids/10-simple-mission-projects-to-do-with-your-kids-2/3079>

10. **Spend time with your kids!** The most beneficial thing you can do when everyone is home together is to focus on the relationships you are building with your children. If there are things that are drawing your attention away from them that are not vital to survival, cancel them! Dads you too! Make time with your kids a priority! This is an opportunity not an imposition. We can't raise our children in the "way they should go" if we are not with them, spending time helping them decode life as disciples of Jesus.

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