



Blackpool SEND Service Newsletter

Supporting schools and home learning for children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

21st April 2020

The Coronavirus outbreak means that parents and carers of young people with SEND are facing uncertainty. We know settings/schools are on the front line and are playing a hugely important role in keeping communities going in these challenging times. If your child is not able to attend their setting/school, we want to support you with some practical home learning advice, hints and suggestions through these newsletters and on the Blackpool Local Offer page on Facebook.

If there is any information that you would like to see on these newsletters or if you would like any advice or support with any aspect of home learning, please contact us by email: inclusions.team@blackpool.gov.uk.

Home routines

- Establish a routine, possibly creating a timetable with your child to include their interests.
- Be flexible and do not put yourselves under pressure.
- Chunk activities with movement breaks.
- Use Social Stories to help children understand what is happening <https://theautismeducator.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Corona-Virus-Free-Printable-Updated-2-The-Autism-Educator-1-1.pdf>

Corona Kindness

Blackpool Council is committed to maintaining essential services and protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. We have established a community Corona Kindness helpline for those who want to offer help and for those that need help. The services that we can help with include:

- Food shopping
- Medical supplies
- Social isolation and loneliness
- Dog walking

If you need to access any of those things or you feel you can help, please email helpneeded@blackpool.gov.uk or helpoffered@blackpool.gov.uk. If you need help call 0808 1963080. <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Corona-Kindness.aspx>

Feelings

It is important for children and young people to be able to express their feelings during this confusing time.

- <https://beaconschoolsupport.co.uk/parents/emotions%20card%20game.pdf>
 - https://beaconschoolsupport.co.uk/parents/supporting_children_at_home.php
- CAMHs have created an amazing library of free resources for you to access <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk>
Supporting your child's play at home <http://ipaworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/IPA-Play-in-Crisis-Booklet-for-parents-and-carers-2020.pdf>

Learning

Read stories together. There are many sites available with links to learning resources. In this section we will share support sites to help with learning.

<https://www.studyladder.co.uk/games/literacy/au-foundation/english-reading-foundations-1924>

Sensory

Some children and young people with sensory processing difficulties do not like to wash their hands. Here are some ideas to help with this.
Smell - try using unperfumed soap
Tactile - try using a wet towel with soap soaked in to wipe hands on or dry soap that dissolves in their hands.
Visual - Try a soap that does not make bubbles like a gel or paper soap. You can try wearing sunglasses or hats to reduce glare as well as wash your hands in different environments.

Speech, Language and Communication

Talking to your child during everyday activities such as bath time, meal times and getting dressed, really helps them to learn language. It draws your child's attention to the things and sounds in their environment - developing vocabulary, listening skills and awareness of their surroundings.



Learning to spell in a fun and active way can really help children and by working on the same words in a different way everyday, they are more likely to retain them and show them in their writing. <https://readingeggs.co.uk/articles/2016/05/19/homeschool-spelling-activities/>