

Lancashire Educational Psychology Team

Talking to children about Coronavirus (Covid-19)

We realise that it can be very challenging to talk to children and young people about difficult events in the news. Psychologists are often asked about how much to tell children and how adults can prepare for challenging conversations on difficult topics. As a result, we have compiled a list of resources that might be useful for supporting children and young people, their families and school staff at this time. This includes information on how to explain to children and young people what coronavirus is and why schools are closing. There are also links to resources to support children's emotional wellbeing.

Although there are a number of resources available online, it is important that adults select resources carefully and explain to children what is happening in such a way that is appropriate for their age or stage of development. Children and young people with special educational needs may need resources to be adapted or simplified to support their understanding.

Animations and Stories

Brain Pop: a video for older children and young people

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

Carol Gray: My story about Pandemics and the Coronavirus

<https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>

ELSA: Coronavirus Story for Children

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-story-for-children/>

ELSA Support Network: Elephant Handwashing to support our story on Coronavirus

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/elephant-handwashing-to-support-our-story-on-coronavirus/>

ELSA Support: We are at home right now

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/we-are-at-home-right-now/>

ELSA Support: Someone I know has Coronavirus

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Someone-I-know-has-coronavirus.pdf>

Just For Kids: A comic exploring the new coronavirus

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus?t=1584464333506&t=1584621251921&t=1584624291624>

Story to explain coronavirus to children and young people

<https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>

Websites**British Psychological Society (BPS): Talking to children about coronavirus**

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Talking%20to%20children%20about%20illness.pdf>

National Association of School Psychologists: Helping children cope with changes resulting from COVID-19 – a parent resource

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

British Psychological Society (BPS): Coronavirus and UK schools closures: Support and advice for schools and parents/carers

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Coronavirus%20and%20UK%20schools%20closures%20-%20support%20and%20advice.pdf>

BBC: Coronavirus: Keep it simple, stick to facts - how parents should tell kids

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51734855>

BBC: Coronavirus: How families can cope with self-isolating together

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51936286>

BBC Newsround: Answering questions about coronavirus

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51861089>

Child Mind: Talking to Children

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

Early Years - Zero to Three: Tips for Families: Coronavirus

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3210-tips-for-families-coronavirus>

Hey Sigmund: How to talk to kids and teens about world trauma

<https://www.heysigmund.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-and-teens-about-world-trauma/>

Save the Children: How to talk to children about the Coronavirus

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/coronavirus-outbreak/coronavirus-outbreak-how-to-explain-children>

Supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Mencap - Easy Read guide to Coronavirus

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Information%20about%20Coronavirus%20ER%20SS2.pdf>

STARS – A range of visual resources designed to aid children and young people with autism, with their understanding of Coronavirus

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/coronavirus-resources>

The Autism Education – A social story, including specificity about the effects of social distancing e.g. not being able to go to favourite places

<https://theautismeducator.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Corona-Virus-Free-Printable-Updated-2-The-Autism-Educator-.pdf>

National Autistic Society – guidance and helpline for parents, young people and staff

[https://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/vanguard/news/2020/march/coronavirus-\(covid-19\)-advice.aspx](https://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/vanguard/news/2020/march/coronavirus-(covid-19)-advice.aspx)

Sensory integration education: Handwashing tips for people with sensory difficulties

<https://www.sensoryintegration.org.uk/News/8821506>

Information for those struggling with OCD

<https://www.ocduk.org/ocd-and-coronavirus-survival-tips/>

Amaze - information pack for parents

<https://amazesussex.org.uk/faqs-about-the-coronavirus-for-parent-carers-of-children-with-send-brighton-hove/>

Carers UK - Guidance for carers

<https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/health/looking-after-your-health/coronavirus-covid-19>

Emotional wellbeing and mental health

BBC: How to protect your mental health

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799>

Young Minds: What to do if you're anxious about coronavirus

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

The Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families: Coronavirus guidance

<https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/anna-freud-learning-network/coronavirus/>

The Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families: Self-Care and Coping Strategies

<https://www.annafreud.org/selfcare/>

ELSA Support: Coronavirus 14 day self-isolation activities

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-14-day-self-isolation-activities/>

Managing anxiety age by age: A guide about what to expect age by age around anxiety, strategies and tips on when to get help

<https://www.heysigmund.com/age-by-age-guide-to-fears/>

PsychCentral: Coronavirus Anxiety: 4 Ways to Cope with Fear

<https://psychcentral.com/blog/coronavirus-anxiety-4-ways-to-cope-with-fear/>

UNICEF: How to talk to your child about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 8 tips to help comfort and protect children

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-talk-your-child-about-coronavirus-covid-19>

Activities for families to do at home

3PPsychologies: 10 more activities for home

<https://3pppsychologies.com/2020/03/23/resources-52-covid-19-10-more-activities-for-home-you-are-not-alone/>

Cosmic Kids: Yoga and mindfulness for children ages 3+.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

Books

Have You Filled A Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids

Carol McCloud. Encourages positive behaviour and expressing kindness and appreciation.

The Way I Feel

Janan Cain. Explores feelings and a helpful way to talk about emotions with young children.

Something Bad Happened: A Kid's Guide to Coping with events in the News

Dawn Huebner. How to process different world events (ages 6-12).

What To Do When You're Scared & Worried: A Guide for Kids

James Crist. A help guide to processing fears and worries (ages 9-13).

The Invisible String

Patrice Karst. Supporting children with separation anxiety, loss and grief.

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