



Activity Suggestions

I have just had an email sent through from the Ashfield District SENCO with suggestions of activities that can be carried out to support children who may have an additional educational need or not. He does stress that not all activities will be suitable for each child and parents / carers would choose those that they deem suitable for their child.

- Play-based learning
- Active play
- Quiet times
- Music and dance sessions/silent reading sessions – both will be needed!
- Root out jigsaw puzzles, cause-and-effect toys, board games, playdough, etc. etc.
- Maintain a strict timetable, carefully set out and referenced – the structure will really help manage any stress
- Maintain expectations of sound and sociable behaviour
- Activate humour!
- Offer honest, factual explanations of what the dickens is going on...and allow the children's fears and worries to surface, being totally open about the massive scale of uncertainty the whole of humanity is facing...but showing calm and resilience in our descriptions of what we must do to get through this
- Otherwise, keep the focus OFF the outside world and create a 'blanket' of fantasy and make-believe, in which children can wrap themselves and explore their feelings in safe, creative ways: Cinderella, The Three Little Pigs, Snow White, The Princess and the Pea...any fairy tale can be examined in differentiated depth and specific scenes brought to life via pictures, drama, art and writing (or Small World re-enactments).
- Have plenty of U-rated films and cartoons on hand to pepper throughout the day – again, ensure they aren't just bunged on when everyone is stressed...place their use into the timetable!
- Create an 'X Factor' or (for you older ones) 'Game for a Laugh' set-ups with which to entertain the children...and certain children can be part of the set-ups (either as performers or behind-the-scenes staff)! TV shows which capture the imagination of the masses can be brought to life. How about The Chase? I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here? Mr Tumble? Paw Patrol? PJ Masks?
- Don't just use worksheets – this is our chance to teach the way we have long known is best!!! – create learning experiences which children will remember and cherish for years to come, and provide them with knowledge Of course, there will be children who will want the reassurance of familiarity and text books / worksheets, but as we are all finding out right now, at the end of the day all that matters is that we love each other, care for each other, find ways to make listening to each other count, never stop learning...and can manage our emotions and relationships.
- Create art galleries, museums, music festivals...and base any themes (trees, birds, cars, windmills) on the interests of the children with the most obvious needs!
- There are loads of fabulous singalong CDs out there – look for books by Niki Davies, like 'Happy Sun High', which can be turned into active singing and movement lessons. Use up-to-date music for the older children, like 'Uptown Funk':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1FOlBnsnkE> ...this is a great, uplifting video! Have fun researching!