



## Family Staycation

You may be worried that you and your family need to self-isolate due to COVID-19 or that now you are needing to do home education. Here are some thoughts and ideas on what you can do at home together depending on what will suit you as a family and what the school has advised.

### Things to consider

- Talk to other parents at the school or friends at church and Wycliffe to get support and ideas. There is lots online too.
- Think carefully about a routine that will work for you all – children love routine!
- Think about your child or the family as a whole having a longer-term project throughout the week that they can keep coming back to: write a diary, create a big collage, write a prayer diary/calendar, make a storybook or scrapbook, have family time to talk about feelings about the current situation with the virus.
- There are some myths about home education that need busting. For that and more encouragement read [this](#).
- Children can learn and have fun at the same time. Keep up the fun factor!
- Education is important but your children knowing they are loved and safe is more important. Global Connections has more to say on that [here](#).

### Keeping up with academia (if you want to turn your hand to a bit of home education)

#### *Planning*

- Think about a designated space you can prepare to use, books, paper, seating, tidiness, inviting etc
- Think about who is around to teach and take care of the children? Who needs to work, when can both parents join in together, when is there time to rest?
- Talk to the school to see if they have any ideas or find out what your children have been learning to see if you want to build on that, at any time during the week(s) off school.
- Plan in snacks, breaks and time for 'free choice' activities.
- Try and ensure everyone gets some fresh air even if you cannot go outside.
- Think about physical exercise: can you do aerobics, balancing, dance, plank competitions, skipping with a rope if you have room, or run around the garden if you have one?
- Home education is done in much less time than a child would have at school, so do not fill every hour of every day.
- Try and distinguish between week days and weekends using special weekend 'treats', lay ins, cooked breakfast, PJ day, Friday night kitchen disco etc.



## *Materials and tools*

- To help with academia [Oxford Owl](#) has ideas for different age ranges for the following subjects and others.
- It is easy to download worksheets for writing practice sheets, simple word searches for identifying words and letters, maths sheets/quizzes etc from online to print off or you can order some workbooks from the Collins Easy Learning series. For older children use Sporcle for general knowledge quizzes.
- Use the internet for videos, interviews, articles, maps, connect with other friends through skype who are also at home during the same time.
- Whilst screen time can be and may need to be used at different times for different reasons try not to allow this to be a default.
- For primary age children, use ways of learning, which include singing, stories and play!

## *Explore subjects your children like at a deeper level and in creative ways*

- If they like geography: look at flags, culture, climate, travel, local geography – parks, roads etc
- If they enjoy music: make some musical instruments, learn a new song, follow a youtube video to drum, look at music across the globe by listening to different types of music, look at music in the Bible
- If they like history: talk about family history, make a family tree, talk about members of the family, what they do, where they are.
- Teens may well need to finish off homework, revise for exams, work on a school project but essentially they may well enjoy and need to find their own working rhythm/pattern, which in the long-run is an advantage.

## **Doing something different** (if you are able and want to do more interactive or practical learning, which cannot be done in a school setting)

- Cooking and preparing food for meal times and talking about health and hygiene
- Baking (simple non-cook recipes are easy to find)
- Gardening activities, planting, weeding, watering, pruning, leaf rubbing, scavenger hunt (this can also be in doors)
- Creativity – songs, poems, drama.
- Youtube - videos for mindfulness, dance, exercise.
- For science experiments there lots of things to watch online and even try at home if you have the right ingredients
- Watching a film and hold a discussion or feedback afterwards to explore different themes, issues or historical events.
- Spiritual input, stories, apps on phones, quizzes, dress up, pray, listen and sing
- Play board games to teach about rules, strategy, consequences, learning how to win and lose well
- Teens might want to learn a new skill, which can be done through the internet: money management, prepare for learning to drive, investigate a career path or something else.
- Link up online with other families for quizzes to grow knowledge, interview the parents to find out about the country or work they are involved in.

## *For inspiration*

- [Things to do with kids](#)
- [50 ideas for kids at home](#) – some more ambitious than others!
- [Flame Creative Kids Ministry](#)