

Creative Activities

Complicated times call for creative responses and your Creative Associates are trying to do their bit! Below are some ideas for tasks, activities and approaches to help you in the weeks and months ahead.

These are mostly primary-school age appropriate and are loosely organised in broad categories. Mix, match, use one topic to teach another... in other words be creative with it!

Feel free to use it and share it widely. For anything we've missed and you feel particularly worthy of inclusion, get in touch with your Creative Associate or drop an email to Juliette Saumande (saumande@gmail.com) and we'll add it in!

Remote teaching

Here is a very comprehensive [list of tips and resources for remote teaching](#). Aimed at music teachers and practitioners, but a lot can be adapted to other areas.

Keep moving

www.GoNoodle.com to keep the kids active

Try out [Cosmic kids](#) YouTube channel for YOGA AND MEDITATION

<https://rtejr.rte.ie/10at10/>
GETTING ACTIVE for 10 minutes, in English or as Gaeilge.

Keep sane!

[CBC Newsround](#) has ADVICE FOR KIDS who are worried about Coronavirus and lots of interesting videos about life in confinement in various places.

A good article about [looking after your mental health](#) during confinement (FOR ADULTS).

Now is probably a good time to chat to kids—and adults!—about FAKE NEWS and how to spot them.

Here are a few useful links:

- [Common Sense Media](#)
- [National Geographic Kids](#) (and there you can practise on 5 stories)

Quizzes

Use the [KAHOOT!](#) website or app to search for thousands of quizzes created by teachers and students or create your own!

Thousands of quiz questions to revise over [here](#).

[Seomra Ranga](#) are doing fun daily quizzes that need some research from the quizzier.

Words, writing & stories

<p>Borrow Box is a free app that allows you to download up to 5 ebooks and 5 audio books at a time. All you need is a library card and you can now join online or over the phone.</p>	<p>Other ONLINE LIBRARIES include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epic! (Can join free for 30 days); • Oxford Owl (free E-books). 	<p>Use the Book Creator app to create stories.</p>
<p>Practise reading, spelling and phonics at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.nessy.com • Reading Bear • Reading Eggs (Can sign up for free trial) • Teach Your Monster to Read (Covers letter sounds to reading full sentences). 	<p>ARTISTS of all kinds are making stuff available: readings, draw-alongs, etc. Find artists the kids like and check them up. They'll likely be doing something! Or look up #operationstorytime.</p>	<p>Writer SARAH WEBB will be posting creative prompts for the family every day #CreativeBursts These videos are uploaded on www.moli.ie</p>
<p>For a brilliant blog about KIDS' BOOKS and what you can do with them, check out http://www.playingbythebook.net/ For each book reviewed or theme explored, ideas of activities, crafts, songs and videos.</p>	<p>In a similar vein, but for younger kids (0-6), check Juliette Saumande's posts on BABY BOOK CLUBS</p>	<p>Keep A JOURNAL of your days off school. Each day change the WRITING STYLE: one day you are in thriller mode, the next you are writing comedy, next again it's a tragedy... and yet it's still your day-to-day life!</p>
<p>We Love Books is a new PODCAST from RTÉ Jr all about kids' books and writing, featuring interviews with readers, authors and illustrators, reviews by kids, writing by kids and writing tips by Dave Rudden.</p>	<p>We Love Books and RTÉ Jr are also running a WRITING COMPETITION, here. As is Fighting Words (this one open to children aged 7-12 and with a story starter).</p>	<p>Share this VIDEO of a read-aloud of Du Iz Tak by Carson Ellis and ask the kids to translate it into English/Irish. (It's written in a made up language, but with help from the pictures, punctuation and general code-breaking skills it's totally understandable). They might come up with different wordings, which is interesting too.</p>
<p>BOOK DOMINO. Ask the kids to take out as many books as they can from their shelves and play a game of dominoes with the covers. They make up themselves the rationale for moving from one cover to the next: maybe they are both yellow, maybe they are by the same illustrator, maybe the both feature an owl, maybe they both contain the same word, etc. This can work with picturebooks, novels, non-fiction, comics, etc. Ask the kids to take a picture of the finished display and to write up (or say) their modus operandi.</p>		<p>CHILDREN'S BOOKS IRELAND have great resource packs for exploring books shortlisted for their annual award. You might find some books that your kids have read/are reading or some on similar themes. The packs (with questions and activities) can totally be adapted to suit your needs. Downloadable for free here:</p>
<p>Poetry Ireland has some brilliant resources for teachers around teaching poetry at both primary and secondary levels.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 shortlist pack • 2019 shortlist • Bold Girls initiative pack

Shows to watch and listen to (plays, videos, podcasts, music...)

<p>Find out about LIVE STREAMS being put on by arts organisations around the world.</p> <p>https://www.socialdistancingfestival.com/live-streams</p>	<p>Branar Theatre has made available FULL RECORDINGS OF THEIR PLAYS for young kids.</p>	<p>ANNA NEWELL THEATRE ADVENTURES have put up a recording of their wordless show Big Kid Little Kid 30 mins, ages 3-6.</p>
<p>Check out Emily Arrow who turns PICTUREBOOKS INTO SONGS with her ukulele. Could the kids be inspired to turn their favourite book into song too?</p>	<p>Musician Thomas Johnston is doing daily half-hour MUSIC SESSIONS for kids on his Tradoodle TV Youtube channel.</p>	<p>The Berliner Philharmoniker has DIGITAL CONCERTS over here.</p>
<p>Discover CLASSICAL MUSIC with the ubiquitous David Walliams and his podcast for Classic FM, Marvellous Musical Podcast.</p>	<p>The Metropolitan Opera NYC is streaming one OPERA each night. And here you will find opera on demand!</p>	<p>Children's Musicians Across the Globe perform Online Kids Concerts, check out the listing here.</p>
<p>Some really COOL VIDEOS on lots of topics on the The Kids Should See This</p>	<p>Check out these PODCASTS Best Podcasts for Kids</p>	

Travelling without moving

<p>VIRTUAL TOURS OF MUSEUMS around the world abound.</p> <p>Try these, these, these or visit Google Art and ask the kids to curate their own collections: give them a theme, a period, an artist or whatever angle to cover and ask them to choose their favourite pieces and explain their choices.</p>	<p>If the great outdoors (or a back garden) is an option, the RSPB has lots of nature games and activities to do inside and outside.</p> <p>And here are ideas to 'give nature a home in your garden'.</p>
<p>Another way of travelling while confined is through WEBCAMS. Find lots here. Invite each kid to pick a destination and look at the webcam in that place. They can spend some time imagining they are there. (What time is it? What's the weather like? What are they doing? What is going on? How do they feel?) Then they can design and write a postcard to answer these questions.</p>	<p>Visit these National Parks all over the US, virtually of course! Great for geography, geology and other nature projects.</p>

Arts and Crafts, Make and Do

<p>For ARTS AND CRAFTS, some excellent go-to sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.redtedart.com • https://artfulparent.com/ 	<p>Free colouring sheets from 113 museums!</p>	<p>Some DOODLE STARTERS from Irish illustrators over here.</p>
<p>A DESIGN-A-COVER competition run by the O'Brien Press, here.</p>	<p>CRAFT lesson plans https://www.learncraftdesign.ie/lesson-plan</p>	<p>Fast drawing for everyone at https://www.autodraw.com/</p>
<p>Loads of art lessons and ideas https://www.mrsbrownart.com/</p>	<p>Browse through the collections of the Irish Museum of Modern Art and their resources.</p>	<p>THE GLUCKSMAN is offering daily art activities. They are also sharing tutorials on their YouTube channel.</p>
<p>For videos, links, lesson plans and more, visit I Am an Artist, a visual arts initiative aimed at supporting primary teachers and pupils in the adoption and delivery of the VISUAL ARTS CURRICULUM in Ireland.</p>	<p>Artist Maeve Clancy has made available a 13-part lesson plan for Observational Drawing, suitable for children from age 8, which includes example drawings by kids.</p>	<p>Marvel Artist Will Sliney is doing TUTORIALS on youtube live, and taking theme suggestions, and challenging the children to draw things every day. It's #WeWillDraw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will's Twitter • Will's Youtube Channel

Tech & Digital, Coding & Typing

<p>Create a STOP-MOTION ANIMATION on your phone with these apps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple Users • Android Users 	<p>Create a SOUNDSCAPE, using things to hand and record it on a phone/tablet: soundscape of where you are right now, soundscape of a planet you've invented (or its anthem!), soundscape of your bookshelves (what books have you got in there and what sort of come out of them?) etc.</p>	
<p>Try the daily Animation Challenge for Kids from Jane Lee of Fighting Words Cork. See also on Jane's Youtube</p>	<p>SOCK PUPPETS is a fun app that allows kids to record their voice using a sock puppet: tell about a character in a book, replay a scene, share what you know about a topic, tell how you solved a problem, etc. Tutorial here.</p>	<p>Try Puppet Master, an app where you can animate anything from a drawing to a stuffed animal.</p>
<p>Improve your TOUCH TYPING trying out either of these websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Dance Mat Typing • Typing Club 	<p>Children can access a variety of coding activities for free on www.code.org</p>	<p>Scratch: Set up a free account and build your own stories and games.</p>

Maths, Science and other STEM topics

<p>www.topmarks.co.uk is an excellent website and most GAMES are tablet friendly.</p>	<p>Excellent maths games, good for revising all tables. www.mathsplayground.com</p>	<p>www.mangahigh.com (has been made free for the next few weeks). Excellent website linked to the Irish curriculum.</p>
<p>www.khanacademy.org Can set up a free account for your child 3rd-6th class.</p>	<p>Lots of cool MATHS GAMES and crafts here: https://www.mathsweek.ie/2019/parents-page/</p>	<p>Try Puppet Master, an app where you can animate anything from a drawing to a stuffed animal.</p>

Photography

<p>A TINY TOUR. Choose your favourite small toy and take them on a tour around your house. Photograph their adventures. Where do they go and what do they see? Think creatively about your photographs – try unusual angles and different viewpoints – up high, down low, close up and far away. What does a toy’s eye view look like?</p>	<p>THE SELF-PORTRAIT CHALLENGE. Challenge yourself to create a self-portrait without actually taking a picture of yourself. What could you photograph? Your favourite place? Your favourite shoes? A toy or perhaps your shadow? Try lots of different ways of doing this, so it becomes a whole project about showing other people who you are.</p>	<p>MAKE A SCENE. Choose your favourite story and recreate a scene from it with your family. Make sure you use lots of props! Set everything and everyone up. Then take a photograph.</p>
<p>COLOUR HUNT. Walk around your house and outside, and look for things of a certain colour and photograph them.</p>	<p>I SPY... Play “I spy something beginning with the letter...” but this time children have to find objects that start with the letter and photograph them. Can you make up a whole alphabet with your photos?</p>	<p>Explore the National Gallery of Ireland’s RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS on photography https://www.nationalgallery.ie/what-we-do/education-department/schools/resources-schools</p>
<p>Check out the schools resource pack for <i>Medium, Materiality & Magic</i>, an introduction to the photography collection at the National Gallery of Ireland.</p>		<p>Learn HOW TO MAKE A PHOTOGRAM on the National Gallery of Ireland’s Youtube Channel</p>

Baking

Check out [Devoted Cakes](#) doing virtual bake offs on Instagram!

Irish

Watch IRISH TV programmes on the website [Cúla4](#)

Play GAMES as Gaeilge on the [Cód na Gaeilge App](#)

Rainn agus Amhráin has lots of songs and rhymes as Gaeilge. The songs and rhymes are categorised into the various topic areas as outlined by the Irish Curriculum and are further divided into the various class levels. The download page contains links to some colouring pages and worksheets to download as a teaching resource. Each topic area is also available to print.

Whole curriculum

Here's the entire [list of education companies](#) offering free subscriptions due to school closures. (Including [twinkl.ie](#))

Curriculum activities
<https://ie.ixl.com/>

www.starfall.com is excellent for literacy and maths, educational games, books and songs. Starfall free app available also.

Julie Anne de Brún has started a list of 80+ activities for schools and families, many as Gaeilge, over on [Twitter](#).

Use the following two websites to create a project on a topic of choice. Great for SESE.

- <https://www.scoilnet.ie/scoilnet-services/world-book/>
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/>