

IDEAS FOR CHILD MENTORS

CREATIVE WAYS TO MENTOR FROM A DISTANCE

TIPS FOR STAYING CONNECTED VIRTUALLY

- Select a time of day that works best for the whole family.
- Ask the child open-ended questions, rather than “yes or no” questions.
- Ask preference questions such as, “What’s your favorite movie and why?” or “What kind of music do you listen to?”
- It’s easier to keep calls short at first - it can take some time to get used to doing a video chat!
- Finish with a wave, a “high five,” an air elbow bump, or create your own special good-bye at the end of the call!
- Ensure parents are nearby and child is not alone on the video chat.

HOW TO READ STORIES TOGETHER:

- Reading a picture book: ask questions before turning the page such as, “What do you think will happen next?” or after turning the page, “Why do you think that happened?” or “Who is your favorite?” or “Can you find the _____?”
- Reading chapter or longer books: stop after a page or two and ask simple questions or make enthusiastic comments like, “Oh my, I didn’t expect him to do that!” or “What were you thinking would happen?” or “Do you think that was a good move or choice?”
- Kids enjoy repetition, and younger children especially may want you to repeat the same books.
- Try to use different voices and accents when reading. Ask the child which type of voice a character might have and try it out.
- Write a story together - give a prompt and take turns adding a sentence (especially fun with more than one child). You can also have a start and ending to the story and you take turns writing the middle, sentence-by-sentence.
- Read a choose-your-own-adventure story.

ARTS & CRAFTS IDEAS:

- Choose & print coloring sheets and color together. Discuss which colors you’re using & why.
- Try to do simple origami with older kids.
- Learn napkin folding together, step-by-step.
- Do simple drawings with a video that shows each step.
- Challenge each other to draw different animals.

GAMES TO PLAY:

- Play 20 Questions (only yes or no answers), guessing animals or places.
- Guess How Many game - fill a jar with candy or another small object, take turns guessing the number of objects in the jar, and then count them out together.
- Play Charades.
- Play Simon Says.
- Search the room and find the alphabet (locate objects in the room that start with each letter).
- Pictionary (using categories).
- "I went to the zoo/store and I saw..." (go letter-by-letter through the alphabet, and with each turn, try and recall each of the previous items - if kids are young, just brainstorm the item, no recall needed).

FUN ACTIVITIES:

- Have a dance party.
- Have a tea party.
- Sing together.
- Play guessing games.
- Tell jokes and riddles.
- Have a staring contest.
- Listen to each other's favorite songs or watch the music video.
- Eat lunch together.
- Host a Show and Tell.
- Play online UNO.
- Xbox approved games.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

- Use flashcards (math, opposites, sight words, sounds, vocabulary).
- Play Hangman.
- Play chess or checkers online.
- Prepare an easy recipe together.
- Teach the basics of an instrument.
- Learn a new language (try starting with basic vocabulary such as counting & common words).
- For young children, hide objects under a blanket and have them guess the item.
- Learn the states and capitals.
- Brainstorm words that start with certain sounds.
- Explore new countries or national parks online.
- Ask about a place they would like to visit, and then learn about it together.