



**Multilingual Families Lab** conducted a survey on children's communication during COVID-19.

201 Anglophone, Francophone and Hispanophone families answered our questionnaire and have shared what would be useful for their children. Thanks for your participation!

Here are the results of the survey.

We hope this material is helpful!



## 1. Meetings with other children!

The COVID-19 period has had a significant impact on children's relationships with their school friends. Most children no longer meet with their classmates. We share some ideas to promote interactions with other children from home.

- Through Skype or FaceTime, it is quite simple to play games together. For example, they can play guessing games. A fun way to do this involves each child making the other person guess a word by drawing it, or your child instructs his friend to draw an object or concept.
- Remotely, it is also possible to play board games like "Battle Ships" or "Guess Who?". Each household needs a copy of the game.
- Some other ideas: coloring online, playing with play dough, singing songs together.
- Other than video conferencing, kids can organize "Treasure Hunts" by hiding photos/drawings in their neighbourhood, and they can put these "treasures" on My Maps. Rainbow drawings on windows (see Drawings on Windows) is a good example.
- And for older children, there is the Messenger kids app that allows them to communicate with their friends under parental supervision.



## 2. Increasing meetings, training and coaching with specialists or teachers.



A critical need mentioned by parents and caregivers of all children was to have more meetings, education, and training with clinicians and teachers.

- It is important during this time to clearly define what you and your child need. Ensure that you know and can explain why you are requesting a meeting.
  - Families have different needs, so specifying what kind of training you need will make it easier to help you.
- Another important aspect is flexibility. Because the current situation is exceptional, we must be flexible with our requirements and with what they can offer us.

## 3. Advice on toys or games suitable for your child.



For parents and caregivers, knowing which toys to use or adapt during the pandemic is challenging, so we want to offer you some ideas.

- For parents and caregivers, knowing which toys to use or adapt during the pandemic is challenging, so we want to offer you some ideas.
- For young children, you can buy or make puppets or microphones. They all stimulate oral communication.
- For school-age children and teens, board games and role-playing games encourage social interaction and can be done remotely.
- For more detailed information for toddlers and school-age children, visit <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/coronavirus-covid-19-guide-parents/in-door-play-ideas-stimulate-young-children-home>



Do not forget that we are experiencing exceptional and challenging times, so if you or a member of your family needs help, do not hesitate to seek professional advice.