

Hello Champions!

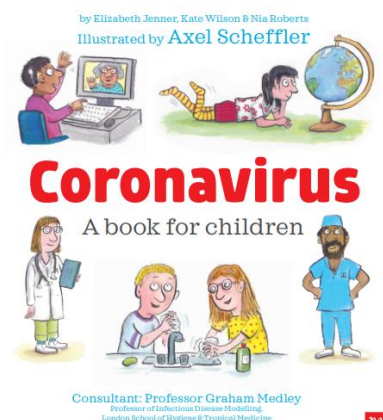
We hope that you are well and staying safe. It has been really useful to hear back from some of you about how you are using the resources in our newsletters. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with ideas for future newsletters! This week, we are looking at how to support children and young people with SEND. This may be supporting them at school if they are attending, or resources to support children with SEND remotely while they stay at home with their families. Some of the resources are also useful for families with an adult that has SEND too.

Just a reminder that Point 1 is open and available for telephone support for families. You can contact us on **0800 977 4077** or email at point1-support@ormistonfamilies.org.uk. Please include the name and date of birth of the young person, their postcode, their school and a contact within the school and a brief outline of your concerns.

Supporting SEND

Explaining the coronavirus pandemic to children and young people can be difficult and explaining the crisis to children with SEND can present further challenges. Fortunately, there are multiple resources online that use books, social stories and sign language to help young people with SEND better understand the current situation. Makaton have released [information](#) about the coronavirus using pictures and symbols, as well as a [social story](#) explaining the pandemic. Carol Gray, who is best known for the development of Social Stories, has also produced a [range of social stories](#) addressing different elements of the pandemic, such as understanding the virus, handwashing and coping with seeing the virus on television. MENCAP have also produced an [easy read guide](#) with information about the coronavirus. There are also various children's stories that have been written to help children and young people better understand the virus. If you have a Twinkl account, they have created the Doctor Dog eBook to explain the virus. The interactive [COVIBOOK](#) has also been developed, which explains the virus and also has interactive elements for children to engage with. Axel Scheffler has illustrated a [book](#) about the virus, and Dave the Dog learns about the coronavirus in [this](#) Nurse Dotty story.

In terms of learning, some children with SEND may still be attending school, but many may not and that presents the potential challenge of supporting SEND learning at home. The Government have released [advice](#) around continuing the education of children with SEND during this time,



and they also signpost to further resources that may be of use. BBC Bitesize have also created a [SEND Parent Toolkit](#) filled with advice and resources for families during lockdown. University College London have also produced a range of [resources](#) around supporting children with SEND at home during this time of school closures. The resources include coping with the transition to home learning, communication and social and emotional health too. Autism Anglia has also created an extensive list of [resources](#) for people with autism and their families to use during this time. It looks at supporting learning, but also goes into supporting the family in terms of claiming benefits, sensory activities for home and keeping fit too. The National Autistic Society have also gathered [resources](#) to support families during this time. They have a section on supporting home learning, but also guidance around using supermarkets and accessing social care. They have also created the [Coronavirus Series](#) – a series of videos around supporting autistic people and their families during the current situation. They cover a range of topics over multiple videos, and the videos are pre-recorded meaning that once they have been released, you can access them at any time. Their schedule is:

- **‘Coronavirus, health and wellbeing’** – Wednesday 29th April 7.30pm
- **‘Your care and support’** – Wednesday 6th May 7.30pm
- **‘Supporting children and young people’** – Wednesday 13th May 7.30pm

You may also wish to direct your families that you work with to this online webinar hosted on Eventbrite and lead by Arietta Slade, a professor of Clinical Child Psychology at the Yale Child Study Centre. It is designed to support parents and caregivers of a child with SEND during the coronavirus pandemic. It is free to attend and will take place on Thursday the 30th of April from 7pm to 8.30pm. You can register attendance online [here](#).

Going back to school

Some of you may be thinking ahead and planning for when children and young people return to school. We are expecting the return to school to produce a variety of mental health needs in children and young people. If you are working in a primary school, NHS Oxford Health have produced a primary school resource pack full of lesson plans and ideas around mental health. It has been developed alongside CAMHS and is designed for use with whole class learning but can be used in small groups or 1:1. The resource pack can be found [here](#). Attached to our newsletter email, there is a document about emotional support for children. This includes lots of stories and songs that families can access at home to support their children through this difficult time. These stories may also be of use to you when planning sessions for when the children return to school.

Partner Support Pack

Attached to our newsletter email is the Partner Support Pack. This is a collection of information for professionals that are supporting children, young people and their families through COVID-19. It contains contact information and signposting to various Norfolk services that can support families in a range of ways, from food banks to bereavement.

We hope that these resources are useful in supporting you in your practice and that you are staying safe and well!

Many thanks,

The LINK Team