

# Staying Connected With Our Children

Now is the time to stay close to our children.

They need to feel us beside them so they don't feel as worried as they are. We need to be honest with them and let them know that good people from around the world are working very hard to keep them safe and healthy. Our children will believe us, we love them deeply.

## Be Honest

"COVID 19 is a sickness like a cold. Some people will get it. Maybe someone in our family might get sick. We are all a little bit scared. Being scared is a sign that we are concentrating on being safe. There are really good people like doctors who know what to do. They are helping to figure it out."

## Validate Their Feelings

"I know I might look worried sometimes. Mums or dads get worried too, just like children. I know it can make you feel scared. But I am ok."  
"It is ok to be feeling scared, or worried, or whatever you are feeling right now. You can share that with me whenever you need to."

## Acknowledge Day to Day Disruptions

"Even if school and your after school activities stop for a while, they will start up again. How about we think about some ways of doing versions of these things together at home if we need to?"

## Remind Them

"I love you, and that is one thing that will never change."

Here are some ways that parents and carers can share connection, comfort and care with their children right now.

## Look to History

"There have been sicknesses like this before. And they have stopped. Clever people from around the world have worked them out together. The scientists are doing this right now with this one."

## Remain Available

"You can talk with me whenever you need to. I will answer any questions you have. If I don't know the answers, I will find out and then I will tell you."

## Have fun

Share some time with your children that is just for them, and let them lead the play.

"Let's do some things that you like to do."

## Create some quiet time

Find a regular time where you can just be still with children. Stroke their hair. Watch a favourite show on TV. Listen to music together. Let them decide if they want to talk. Be present with them. Enjoy it.

