

Coronavirus; supporting our children's wellbeing

Wellbeing tips for families from Wrexham Educational Psychology Service:

- ❖ Talk to your children, and answer their questions. Ask about what they have already heard about the virus and the situation so that you can address any possible misconceptions and reassure them.
- ❖ Avoid being too immersed in media coverage. Be mindful of the amount of things you are reading and watching, including social media – as this may add to worry and anxiety. Consider a few updates every day from trusted sources such as Public Health Wales.
- ❖ People can react very differently to significant events. Some people – adults and children alike – may feel anxious and worried, some excited, some nothing much at all. Be reassured that different reactions are normal and ok.
- ❖ If your child seems worried, it may be good to distract themselves with something that takes their mind off their worries. You might also want to set aside 10-15 minutes each day for them to talk about any worries, and to reassure them.
- ❖ Remember to keep things positive and give children hope. For example, tell children that now many people are working to make this better and that even though it is serious, everyone is doing their best to help people.
- ❖ Try to keep familiar routines for example keeping lunch time, tea time and bedtime at the usual times. Well-known routines in everyday life provide security and stability.
- ❖ Do nice things together, and keep active. Make a plan and suggest some regular family times where you can play games, do some exercise together, or do other things that you know most of you like such as craft or puzzles. Try to find a good balance between time together, and screen time.
- ❖ Keep in good contact with family and friends (via Facetime, Skype WhatsApp etc.; following NHS guidance on 'social contact'). This will help children connect with others and know that others are thinking about them. It will also reassure them that others are well.
- ❖ As a parent/carer you may be concerned yourself. Take care of yourself and make sure you have breaks, time to relax, and ask for help from others if you need.

Some useful links on the next page...

Some useful links:

NHS advice:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Talking to children about Coronavirus

Advice on talking to children about Coronavirus, by British Psychological Society:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-highlights-importance-talking-children-about-coronavirus>

How to talk to your child about coronavirus, by Childmind:

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

Child-friendly, illustrated explanation of Coronavirus for Primary age students:

https://660919d3-b85b-43c3-a3ad-3de6a9d37099.filesusr.com/ugd/64c685_319c5acf38d34604b537ac9fae37fc80.pdf

A child-friendly video explaining Coronavirus:

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

Information video on Coronavirus for older children/adults, by WHO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOV1aBVYKGA&feature=youtu.be>

Supporting Children/Adolescents Wellbeing

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

Your wellbeing

Coronavirus and your wellbeing, by Mind UK:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

5 ways to wellbeing, by Mindkit:

<https://www.mindkit.org.uk/5-ways-to-wellbeing/>

Note: as the situation and sources of information are developing, the above tips and links may be updated.

