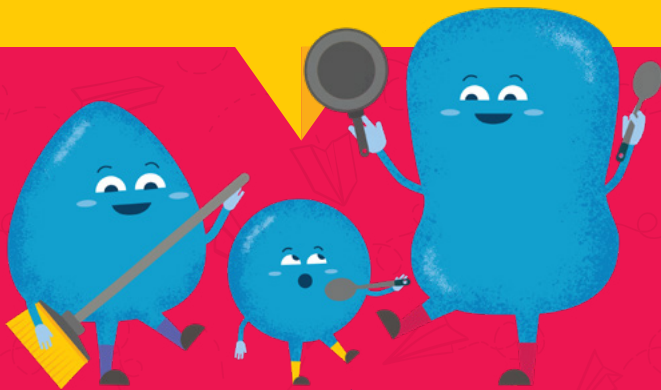


# Covid-19 Parenting Learning through Play

Millions of children face interruptions with schooling and often feel isolated from friends and peers. This tip is about learning through play – something that can be fun for all ages!

## Types of play.

- There are many different types of play that can be both fun AND educational.
- Language, numbers, objects, drama, and music games give children opportunities to explore and express themselves in a safe and fun way.



## Telling stories.

- Tell your children a story from your own childhood.
- Ask your children to tell you a story.
- Make up a new story together starting with "Once upon a time..." Each person adds a new sentence to the story.
- Act out a favorite story or movie – older children can even direct younger ones while learning responsibility.

## Change the object!

- Every day household items like brooms, mops, or scarfs can become fun props for games.
- Place an object in the center of the room and whenever someone has an idea, they jump in and show the rest what the object can be.
- For example, a broom might become a horse, microphone, or even a guitar!

## Movement games.

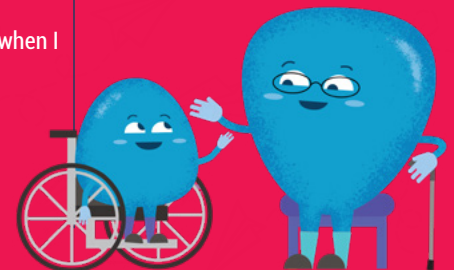
- Create a dance choreography to your children's favorite songs. First person does a dance move and everyone else copies. Everyone takes turns being the leader.
- "Challenge" who can do the most toe touches, jumping jacks, or laps around the room in a minute.
- "Mirror" each other's facial expressions, movements, sounds. One person can start as the leader and then switch. Try it with no leaders!
- Freeze dance: Play music or someone sings a song, and everyone dances. When the music stops, everyone must freeze. Last person still dancing becomes the judge for the next round.
- Animal dance: Same as above but when the music stops, call out a name of an animal, and everyone has to become that animal.

## Memory game.

- First person says, "When COVID-19 ends, I am going to..." (e.g. go to the park).
- Second person adds to first person, "When COVID-19 ends, I am going to the park and..." (e.g., visit my best friend)".
- Each person adds to the previous trying to think of all of the fun things to do when COVID-19 ends.
- You can change this to any scenario in the future (e.g., when I see my friends).

## Singing.

- Singing songs to your baby or young child helps develop language.
- Play or sing a song, and the first one to guess it right becomes the next leader.
- Make up a song about handwashing or physical distancing. Add dance movements!



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