

COVID-19 DAY-TO-DAY

Rustenburg – The safety of children is our number one concern. Our lives as we know it and that of our children are seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. People welcomed the drastic, but necessary, measures implemented by South African president Cyril Ramamphosa when he declared that all schools must be closed from Wednesday 18 March.

Even though this is in the best interest of the youngsters, some parents were not planning on having the children home for so long. Platinum Weekly has a few tips to keep the youngsters busy during the holidays.

Set up a treasure hunt

Depending on how many items there are, treasure hunts can keep them busy for a while. Hide a few items in and around the house and let them search for them. This should keep them occupied for a few hours. (If you want to get crafty, add that one thing that you have been looking for but just can't seem to find to the list).

Travel the world – from the comfort of your living room

There are plenty of landmarks like New York's Museum of Modern Art and Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum that you can visit virtually. The Louvre, based in Paris, also offers its own virtual online tour for free. Tour the Great Wall of China or even keep it local by streaming live cams of African Animals. Too 'earthy' for you? Then take a virtual tour of Mars.

Get out the board games

Boardgames are a great way to keep kids entertained. You can also play cards. Add to the fun by tasking

children to make their own playing cards, they can even invent their own board game.

Teach kids how to play chess

Chess improves logical thinking skills. It helps children think strategically. They can learn how to make plans, adjust to new situations and create a new approach or strategy. If you don't know how to play, make it a fun learning activity for the whole family.

Let them keep a diary

It is important for children to learn how to express themselves. It will also teach them writing skills and it is a nice memento to reflect on when they get older. It is also important for children to do educational activities so set up a nice learning space where they can study. It is also important that you try and keep to their usual schedule as much as possible so they can easily adjust once the schools reopen.

- Do an alphabet search with your kids where you give them a letter and ask them to find five items that start with that letter.
- Let them make letters with items like pipe cleaners, paper, fabric and then use the letters to build words.
- Let them write letters to family members that you can post, once it is safe to do so.
- Legos are a great way to strengthen fraction math skills.
- There are also plenty of educational games and activities that you can download directly from the internet.

Most importantly, during this time, we should teach them to be safe, stay away from other people and wash their hands.



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