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PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN TIMES OF COVID-19



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SAFE FROM HARM
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PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN TIMES OF COVID-19



Context

Although children are not the face of this pandemic, they risk being among its countless victims. While they have been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 – at least to date – the crisis is having a profound effect on their wellbeing. All children, of all ages, and in all countries, are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts and, in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good. This is a universal crisis and, for some children, the impact will be lifelong. Moreover, the harmful effects of this pandemic will not be distributed equally. As stated in the latest UN Policy Brief, the effects are expected to be most damaging for children in the poorest countries, and in the poorest neighbourhoods, and for those in already disadvantaged or vulnerable situations.



- **Falling into poverty:** The IMF estimates 42-66 million children could fall into extreme poverty as a result of the crisis this year, adding to the estimated 386 million children already in extreme poverty in 2019.
- **Exacerbating the learning crisis:** According to UNESCO, 188 countries have imposed countrywide school closures, affecting more than 1.5 billion children and youth. More than two-thirds of countries have introduced a national distance learning platform, but among low-income countries the share is only 30 percent.
- **Risks for child safety:** Lockdowns and shelter in place measures come with heightened risk of children witnessing or suffering violence and abuse. Children in conflict settings, as well as those living in unsanitary and crowded conditions such as refugee and IDP settlements, are also at considerable risk. Children's reliance on online platforms for distance learning has also increased their risk of exposure to inappropriate content and online predators.
- **Threats to child survival and health:** According to the World Food Programme (WFP), rising malnutrition is expected as 368.5 million children across 143 countries who normally rely on school meals for a reliable source of daily nutrition must now look to other sources. The risks to child mental health and wellbeing are also considerable.

Source: [POLICY BRIEF: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILDREN](#), United Nations, 15 April 2020



Introduction

World Scouting is committed to protecting all children and young people anywhere and at anytime and the Covid-19 pandemic is no exception. With this pack you will have access to a set of resources, activities and campaigns, developed by international organisations to support children and youth around the world, during these challenging times, ensuring their protection from any form of harm.



Educational objectives

1. Learning: Information and Knowledge

- Provide tools and relevant educational resources for young people
- Develop a common understanding of each topic

2. Awareness: Be Aware and Raise Awareness

- Be aware and raise awareness about the dangers young people are facing in times of COVID-19
- Know how to be safe

3. Act, React, Respond

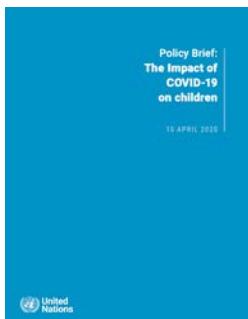
- Provide tips and tools to respond to the consequences of the pandemic
- Empower young people to take action protecting themselves and others
- Encourage young people to share their experiences and good practices

4. Adult Support: Families and Scout Leaders

- Provide relevant resources for families and scout leaders to keep children and young people safe
- Support adults to empower young people to protect themselves



General child protection resources during covid19



For Adults:

[The Impact of COVID-19 on children](#)

This United Nation policy brief provides a deeper analysis of the effects that Covid-19 has on children and young people.

[Agenda for Action: 8 United Nations entities launch roadmap to protect children from violence in response to COVID-19](#)

The Agenda aims to mobilize Governments and other stakeholders around the world in defense of social services for children. Solidarity, multi-stakeholder cooperation and multilateralism are needed now more than ever.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guide for parents | UNICEF Parenting](#)

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has brought with it new challenges for parents across the globe. UNICEF Parenting offers a guide to support parents in navigating this health crisis by providing the best ways to keep children learning, developing and staying safe.

[Support parenting during coronavirus, Save the Children](#)

From comics for the kids, to ways parents can de-stress, Save the Children has compiled several resources to help keep your family healthy and safe during the outbreak.

For Children:

[Coronavirus and Kids: Resources from Save the Children](#)

Save the Children is offering some learning activities and awareness resources that target early childhood education to help young learners during a time when going to school is not an option. From games to comic books to important information you should know, click here and check it out.

[Children's story book released to help young people cope with COVID-19](#)

With the help of a fantasy creature, Ario, this book, My Hero is You, How kids can fight COVID-19! explains how children can protect themselves, their families and friends from the pandemic and how to manage difficult emotions when confronted with a new and rapidly changing reality.

[Youth Against COVID-19 | UNFPA +](#)

Check out the videos developed by young people in partnership with UNFPA and Prezi to learn more about COVID-19 and what youth can do to keep their friends, families, and communities safe. The more accurate information we have, the better equipped we'll be to stop the spread of the virus.

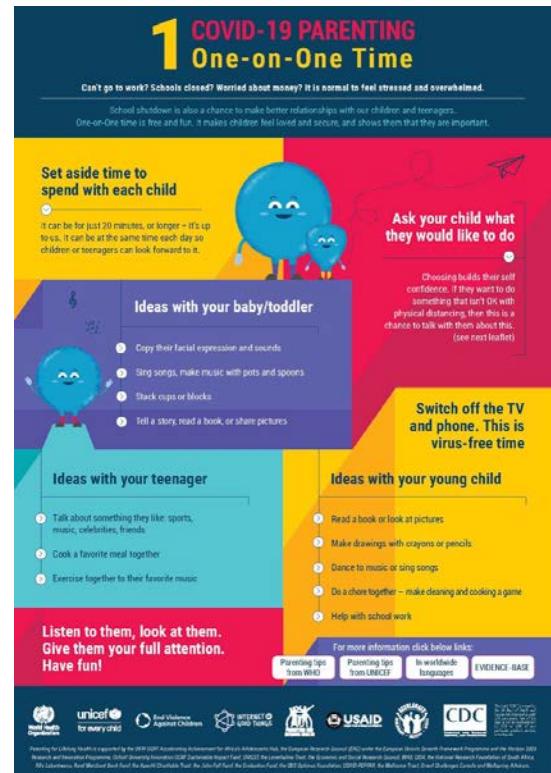
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Domestic violence For Adults:

The most common form of violence children face takes place at home. According to WHO and UNICEF, in a majority of countries, more than 2 in 3 children are subject to violent discipline by caregivers. The following set of resources will focus on how to prevent and act against domestic violence in these challenging times.

Operational objectives

- Allow young people to better understand what domestic violence is
- Support adults to protect young people at home
- Raise awareness about domestic violence in times of Covid19



Promotion of partners material:

Support for children

[Child helpline network](#)

Child Helpline International is a worldwide network of 173 helplines across the world. You can search for the helpline in your country and call to raise child protection issues with national authorities.

Parenting advice and support

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) advice for the public: Advocacy](#)

This resource brings to light key health and human rights considerations in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the importance of integrating a human rights based approach in the response to COVID-19.

[Technical Note: Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic \(v.1\)](#)

This brief aims to support child protection practitioners to better respond to the child protection risks arising during this pandemic.

[How to talk to your child about coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Having an open, supportive discussion with your children can help them understand, cope and even make a positive contribution for others. Find out from UNICEF how to talk to your child about COVID-19.



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How can you help as a Scout?

- Gather tips about how to stay safe at home and share.
- Share recommendations for the children around you about reporting and what they can do if they feel unsafe.
- Here are some recommendations for adults in Scouting to support children and young people at home:
 - » Check on them, listen to how they feel, do not judge them but reassure them, try to find solutions together.
 - » Use tools to understand how they feel such as a list of emotions they have to pick from everyday.
 - » Suggest group activities to engage in.
 - » Set a routine with your group = something they have to do, post, meet up to organise etc.
 - » Be there for them, give them ways they can reach out if they need to.
 - » Show your enthusiasm and motivation and the positive side of these complicated times.

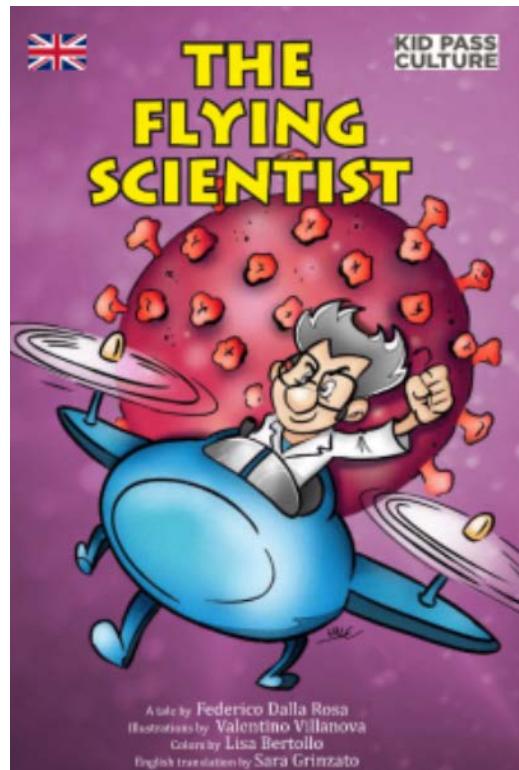
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Being out of school:

Being out of school is presenting a set of new challenges for many children and youth all around the world. The following are a collection of resources and recommendations to encourage adults and young people to maintain their school curriculum and have a successful learning experience.

Operational objectives

- Allow young people to have access to non-formal education
- Support young people to be proactive regarding their education
- Support parents, caregivers, NSOs and adults in Scouting to guide young people in formal education



Promotion of partners material:

Support for children

[The Flying Scientist](#)

Created by Kid Pass Culture, The Flying Scientist is a graphic storybook teaching young children about the coronavirus and how it spreads.

[Distance learning - BrainPOP](#)

This video, produced by BrainPOP, will allow young people to understand and adjust to remote learning. The page also offers readings, quizzes, games and worksheets.

Parenting advice and support

[UNESCO Distance learning solutions](#)

A list of recommended resources created by the UNESCO to support parents and caregivers on distance learning and homeschooling.



Advice towards safe schooling

Guidance to protect children and support safe schools

UNICEF, IFRC and WHO collaborated to develop a global guidance of practical information and checklists for administrators, teachers, parents and children.

10 recommendations to plan distance learning solutions

UNESCO's recommendations on how to create a successful distance learning plan and optimize schooling from home.

How can you help as a Scout?

- Through the [Jamboree On The Internet \(JOTI\)](#), you can promote the webinars linked to learning by doing that cover different topics.
- Encourage adult leaders who are equipped with teaching skills or are professional educators, to host webinars or propose Q&A sessions for children and young people who need help with their homework.
- Promote a skills-development sheet each week, that encourages young people to learn a new skill every week including cooking, manual activity, exercising etc.

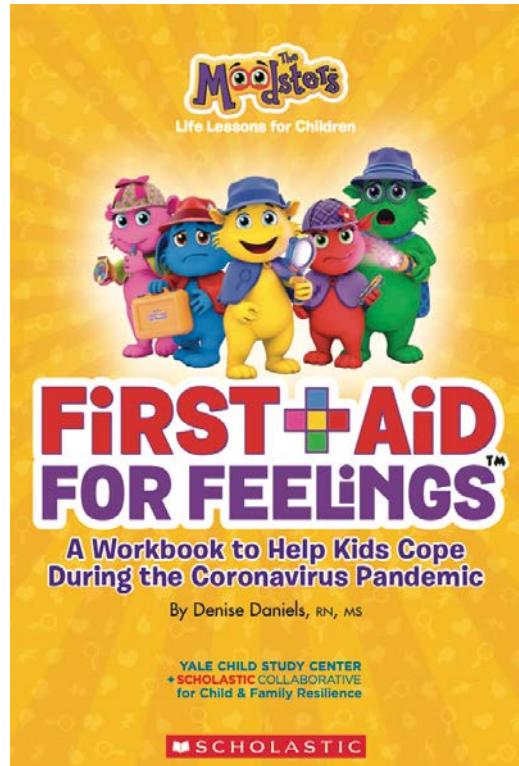
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Health dangers and mental health:

Staying physically and mentally healthy can become quite challenging during this pandemic and its many consequences. The following resources focus on ways to support young people stay mentally and physically fit, as both go hand in hand.

Operational objectives

- Allow young people to form a better understanding of COVID-19
- Raise awareness among parents and caregiver about the mental health issues that children and youth are prone to during these challenging times
- Support young people and adults to cope with social and physical distancing



Promotion of partners material:

Support for children

[A Workbook to Help Kids Cope During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

Just like adults, children around the world are trying to process their emotions and manage anxiety during the coronavirus pandemic. This workbook was created to help incoping with those changes and to guide parents on explaining the situation to their children.

[COVID-19 : Resources for Adolescents and Youth](#)

Discover a compilation of COVID-19 guidance documents and Q&As by WHO.

Parenting advice and support

[Cleaning and hygiene tips to help keep the COVID-19 virus out of your home](#)

To give parents a helping hand, UNICEF compiled the latest information about COVID-19 and useful tips to help keep it out of your home. Learn how to keep your loved ones safe from the virus with simple and effective tips!

[Easy, affordable and healthy eating tips during the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

UNICEF provides 5 tips to help feed children a varied, nutritious diet that will support their growth and development, all while building healthy eating habits.

[6 ways parents can support their kids through the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

UNICEF provides a psychologist's advice on how to help children deal with the many emotions they may be experiencing now.

Mental Health Matters

Jay Thompson (UK)
@ThompsonTravels
#JOTI #TogetherAtHome



How can you help as a Scout?

- Mental Health Matters: This webinar provides an overview of mental health and wellbeing, offering strategies and skills for coping with times of uncertainty and how to support other people. You can find more resources regarding healthy habits and practises on the [Health and Wellbeing Oasis of our Jamboree on the Internet website](#).
- Give access or national information about medical support for mental health.
- Share recommendations from the governments and the World Health Organisation about good practises to adopt to protect ourselves and others from the virus.

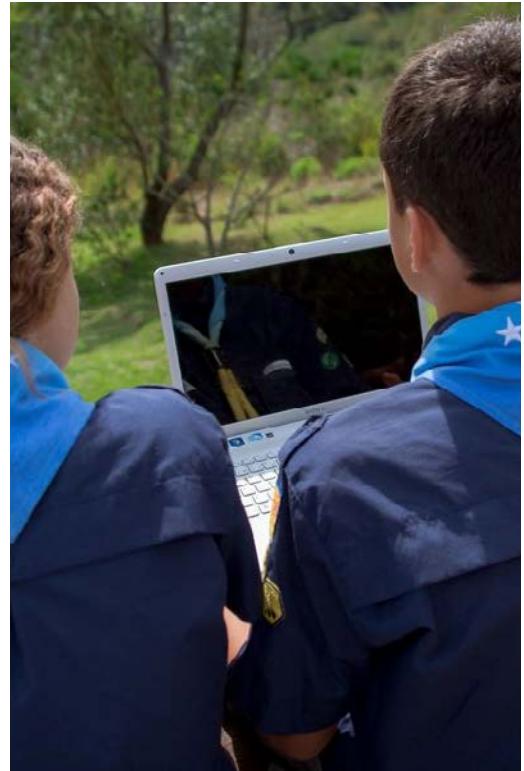
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Online safety:

According to UNICEF, Children's increased reliance on online platforms during the period of physical distancing and remote learning, has also increased their risk of exposure to inappropriate content and online predators. The following set of resources aims to support young people and adults stay safe online at any time.

Operational objectives

- Support adults to protect children and youth while on the Internet
- Share good practises with young people to have a positive online experience and protect themselves
- Raise global awareness about online safety



Promotion of partners material:

Support for children

[UNICEF Online safety](#)

This webpage targeted to young people, gathers different resources and information about online safety.

[#SafeWeb4Kids](#)

Developed by UNICEF, this is a child-friendly tool designed for and by children. The guide helps children to learn about and react to online safety issues.

[Jessie and Friends](#)

This is a series of three videos for children aged between four and seven years-old, along with resources to help educate children as young as four years-old about risky and potentially dangerous situations on the internet, developed by Save the Children.

Parenting advice and support

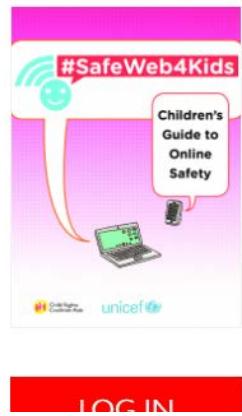
[How to keep your child safe online while stuck at home during Covid19 outbreak](#)

UNICEF offers tips to keep your children safe online and raise awareness about Internet dangers.

[Children at increased risk of harm during Covid19 pandemic](#)

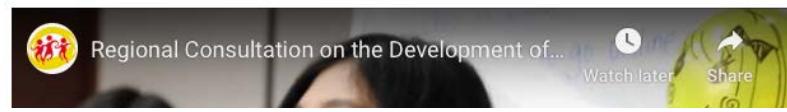
This is a technical note released by UNICEF explaining the causes, consequences, and the increased risk of children spending more time online.

#SafeWeb4Kids Children's Guide to Online Safety



Children's Guide to Online Safety is a child friendly tool designed for and by children. The guide helps children to learn about and react to online safety issues. It was developed as part of a regional child participation campaign on child online safety called #SafeWeb4Kids that was led by the Child Rights Coalition Asia.

Children under the age of 18 from came together in Bangkok to discuss online safety issues with their peers in the region. Together, they created this guide as well as short videos about what traps children may encounter online.



How can you help as a Scout?

- Promote and develop the translation of [Being Safe Online E-learning](#) developed for the Jamboree On the Internet (JOTI).
- Share tips on best practises to have a positive experience on the Internet.
- Share the online safety campaign through Scout channels and networks



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