THE READING AGENCY

Tackling life's big challenges through the proven power of reading

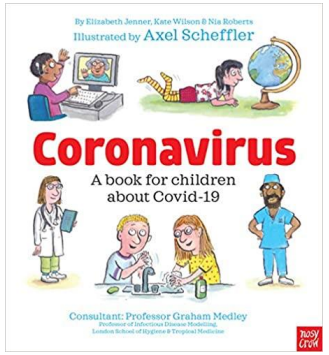
Books that help children stay safe, calm, connected and hopeful.

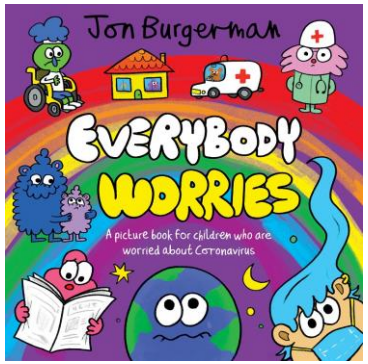
Supporting children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

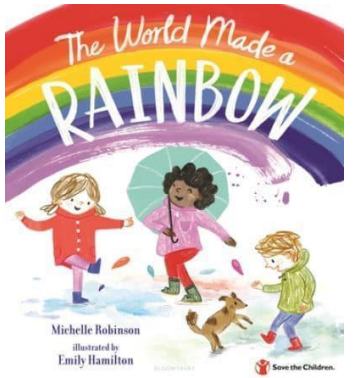
ASCEL Leading Excellence in library Services for Children, Young People and Schools

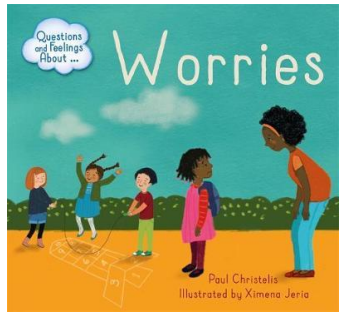
Libraries Connected

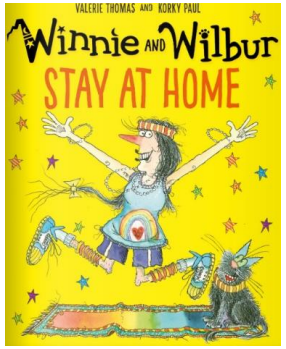
TACKLING LIFE'S BIG CHALLENGES THROUGH THE PROVEN POWER OF READING

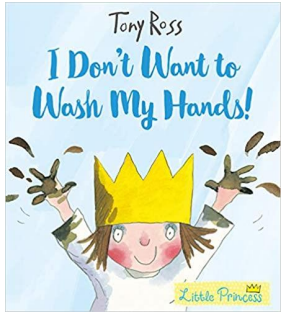


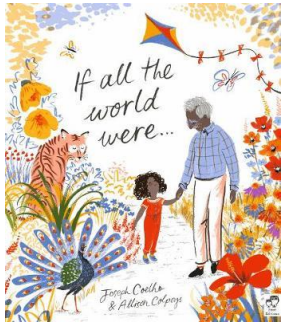


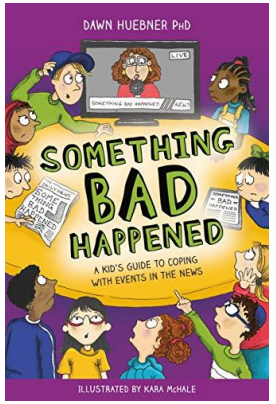


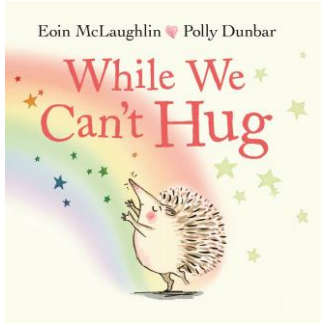


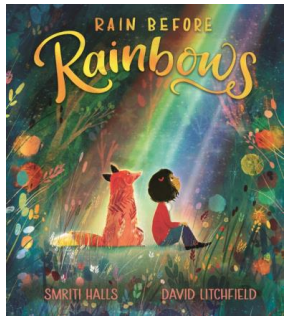


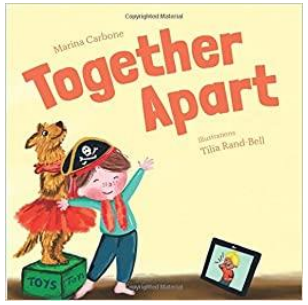


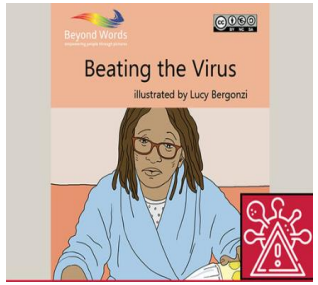


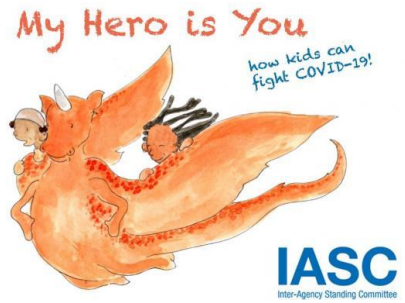












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Libraries Connected

THE READING AGENCY

Books that help children stay safe, calm, connected and hopeful.

Many of the books are free for download or can be borrowed from your local library.

#LibrariesFromHome brought to you by Libraries Connected

While libraries gradually reopen, here at Libraries Connected, we are showcasing the best digital services from public libraries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

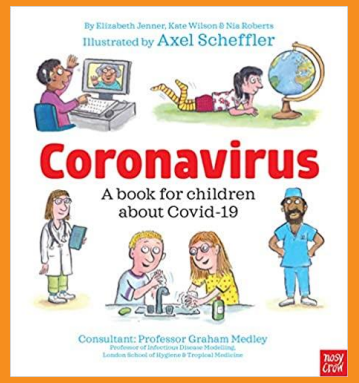
Libraries From Home

The need for this book collection:

- 55% of children said that they had felt stressed when schools closed.
- Children's mental health has been further impacted as the crisis continued:
  - Children reported stressors including missing friends, loss of routine and exposure to troubling news stories and adult conversations.
  - 60% were worried that a relative might fall sick
  - 1 in 4 children living under lockdown, social restrictions and school closures are dealing with feelings of anxiety

THE READING AGENCY

Staying safe



Coronavirus: A Book for Children

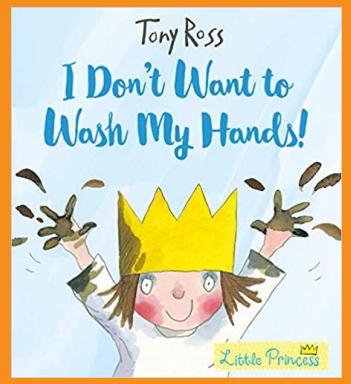
Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson and Nia Roberts

Illustrator Axel Scheffler

FREE DOWNLOAD

A digital book for primary school age children, free for anyone to read on screen or print out, about the coronavirus and the measures taken to control it. The book answers key questions in simple language appropriate for 5 to 9 year olds.

Nosy Crow



I Don't Want to Wash My Hands

Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson and Nia Roberts

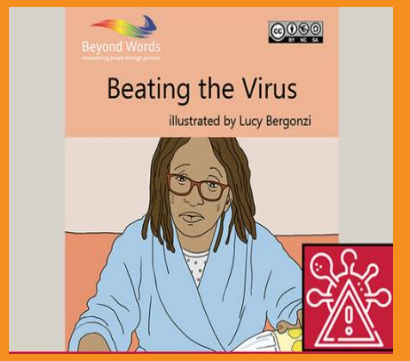
Illustrator Axel Scheffler

Video Storytime

ISBN 9781849393997

The Little Princess loves getting her hands dirty. The trouble is . . . she hates washing them. Until she learns all about the nasties and the dirties and all the other horrible things that lurk and make you ill.

Anderson Press



Beating the Virus

Illustrator Lucy Bergonzi

FREE DOWNLOAD

A short wordless story, that will help people to understand what to do if you have Coronavirus and how to keep yourself and those who you care about safe. The story also shows how to safely help others who may be self-isolating. Supplementary text at the end of the story gives information on where people can seek help if they are unwell and signposts to other useful resources.

Books Beyond Words

Staying calm

Something Bad Happened: A kid's guide to coping with events in the news

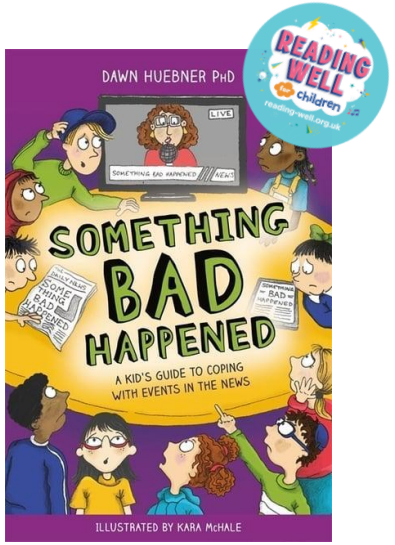
Dawn Huebner PHD

Illustrator Kara McHale

ISBN 9781787750746

Full of advice for children who may be worried about events in the news, this guide from best-selling author Dawn Huebner offers advice for having tough conversations with 6-12 year olds about world events. It addresses common questions and provides tools to calm fears.

Jessica Kinglsey Publishers



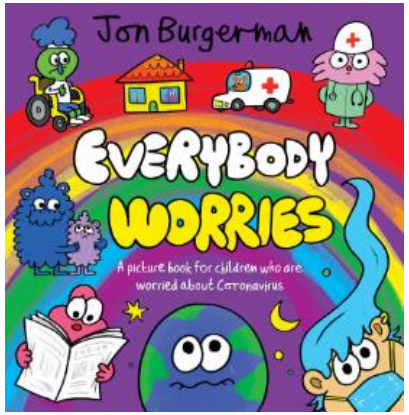
Everybody Worries

Jon Burgerman

FREE DOWNLOAD

Everybody Worries offers your child the reassuring message that this crisis will pass, we are there for them, and we will get through this together. Fun rhyming couplets keep the tone gentle and supportive, and you will find plenty of ideas for dealing with coronavirus in a positive way.

Oxfrod Own

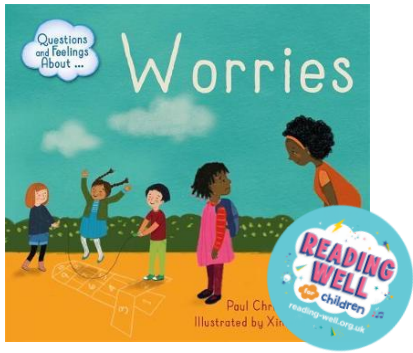


Questions and Feelings About: Worries

Paul Christelis

Illustrator Ximena Jeria

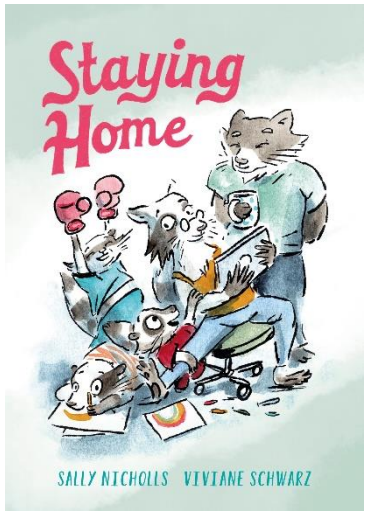
ISBN 9781445163956



A gentle, down to earth book for addressing the things that can cause children to be anxious and worried. Mindfulness expert Paul Christelis explores everyday, helping children to recognise signs of worry and giving them reassurance and simple suggestions on how to cope with any worries.

Hachette

Staying home



Staying home

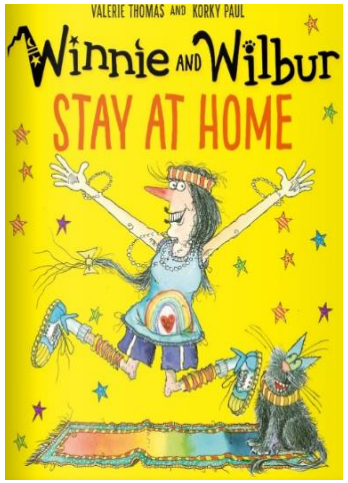
Sally Nicholls

Illustrated by Viviane Schwarz

FREE DOWNLOAD

A family of energetic raccoons are going through a day in lockdown, no school, nursery or work – and explaining to the youngest members of the family how they're doing their part to save lives just by staying at home!

Anderson Press



Winnie and Wilbur Stay at Home

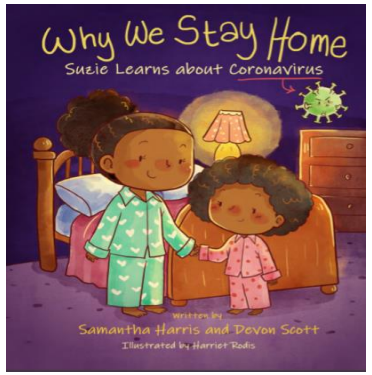
Valerie Thomas

Illustrator Korky Paul

FREE DOWNLOAD

Winnie and Wilbur are staying at home. The book shows lots of situations which families in lockdown can relate to and activities you can do while staying a home, including printing the story and colouring in some of the illustrations.

OUP



Why We Stay Home: Suzie Learns about Coronavirus

Samantha Harris and Devon Scott

Illustrator Harriet Rodis

FREE DOWNLOAD

Clear age appropriate text of first-time authors and medical students explaining what a virus is, that there are good and bad germs, the healthy habits we should practice – and the significance of checking in on friends and family who may be alone in quarantine.

Parent's Choice

Staying connected

While We Can't Hug

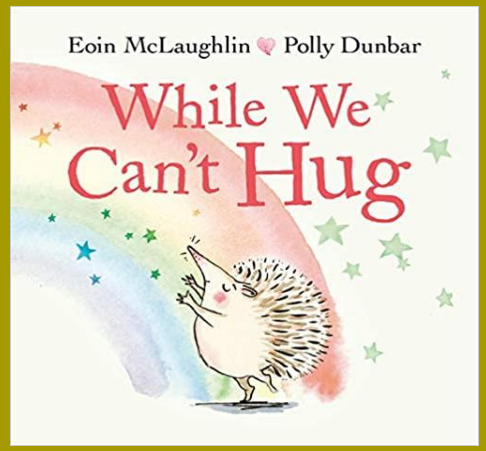
Eoin McLaughlin

Illustrator Polly Dunbar

ISBN: 9780571365609

An adorable story about how to show someone you love them whilst maintaining social distancing, While We Can't Hug takes characters from McLaughlin's beloved The Hug and places them in a new setting to reflect these unusual times.

Faber & Faber



Together Apart

Marina Carbonne

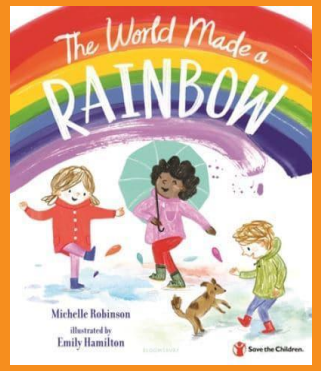
Illustrator Tilia Rand-Bell

ISBN: 9798673759547

Join Sammi and friends on their adventures during a time where we can't always play close together or be near those we love. A simple story with a powerful message on the importance of love, kindness and acceptance in our changing world. The perfect springboard for talking to children about their hidden worries as we adapt to a new-normal.

Independently published

Staying hopeful



The World Made a Rainbow

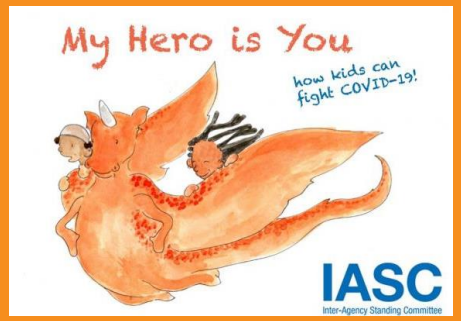
Michelle Robinson

Illustrator Emily Hamilton

ISBN 9781526629807

Inspired by the rainbows that children across the world have been creating and displaying in their windows, The World Made a Rainbow is a beautiful story with a hopeful message of staying connected to the people we love, and a proportion of proceeds will be donated to Save the Children UK.

Bloomsbury



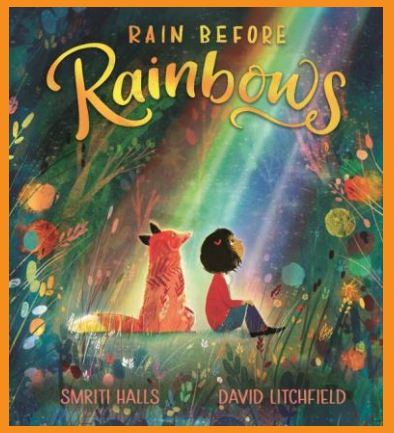
My Hero is You

UNICEF

FREE DOWNLOAD

A story developed for and by children around the world, offers a way for children and parents to together think about the questions the pandemic raises. The story was shaped by more than 1,700 children, parents, caregivers and teachers from around the world who took the time to share how they are coping with the impact of COVID-19.

UNICEF



Rain Before Rainbows

Smriti Halls

Illustrator David Litchfield

ISBN 9781406382358

Video Storytime

A girl and her companion fox travel together from a place of loss and despair, through uncertain times, towards the hope of colour, light and life. A book with immense hope at its heart, this is a positive message for anyone who's ever gone through a tough time.

Walker Books

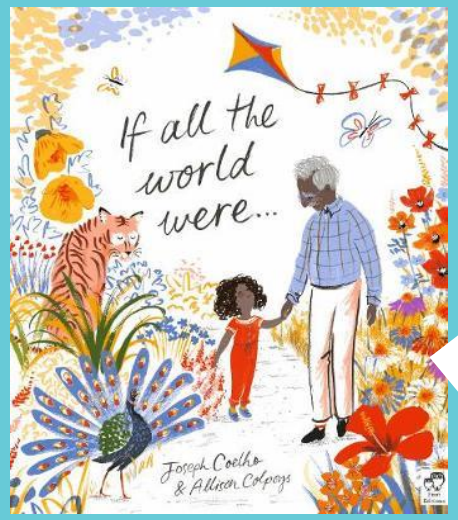
READING WELL for children
reading-well.org.uk

Looking for more books to support children's wellbeing?

Reading Well for children recommends reading to help children **understand their feelings** and **cope with tough times**. The books have been **chosen and endorsed** by **children**, **carers**, **health experts** and **librarians**.

The titles in the list deal with topics from **anxiety** and **grief**, to **bullying** and **internet safety**, to **how to cope with events in the news**. Download a guide to the books on the list at

reading-well.org.uk/children



"Great for children dealing with bereavement, but also just a beautiful story to share with the little ones that you love."

Parent

THE READING AGENCY

Find out more:

www.readingagency.org.uk

Follow us @readingagency

TACKLING LIFE'S BIG CHALLENGES THROUGH THE PROVEN POWER OF READING