

## Having to do things differently.....

We just wanted to give a quick update on how we have been managing to continue to support families during this difficult time, as well as let you know how you might be able to help us!

### What we have been doing.....

**Weekly activity packs and “check-in” texts/calls to our Early Years children and their families**



*“A loves getting her packs off you guys. I think it’s a lovely thing you are doing for the children. A feels special when she gets her as her older siblings get stuff to do from school. Her words are “my school” when looking inside”*



*“They’ve been a source of sanity to those of us hunkered down with 1+ kid/s!”*



*“He really enjoyed the spider making activity.”*

*“She loves it and she was so excited she had a pack on door step”*

**Setting up a ‘virtual’ After school club** - working with local partner organisations to offer activity ideas, resource packs and possibly some sort of online provision

**Care packages for vulnerable families** – thanks to some amazing donations from our friends at Inspire, we have been able to provide essential items to local families and the families who use our crèche provision at Willowbank and Oak Lodge homeless refuges



**General support via phone/email for any families struggling** - Families have talked to us about all sorts of worries and concerns that they are facing, including:

- Loneliness- not seeing close family/friends especially for parents on their own

*“You’re the first adult conversation I’ve had in days”*

*“We just feel so alone”*

- Lack of internet/equipment to access resources which are mostly online

*“I’m struggling to find resources....and I don’t have a computer or printer”*

- Children missing out on nursery/school and settling back in after long time off

*“B is really struggling with isolation even though we try and get her out on her scooter or bike once a day.”*

*“It’s the children I feel for as they are all wanting to be back in school and A is definitely missing you lot (Staff) and her little friends, it’s the routine”*

- Worries about job/money

### How can you help?

#### DONATE TOYS/CRAFT RESOURCES/FOOD OR BASIC CARE ITEMS

To give some ideas we have created a list on Amazon full of the items families are telling us they need and that we would like to be able to provide for the children. Click on the link below to help us by buying items from the list. What’s more if you sign up to [Amazon Smile](#) you can raise donations for us every time you shop at Amazon!

#### [Amazon Wish List](#)

<https://bit.ly/activitypackwishlist>

We are also looking at ways we can replace the unrestricted income we rely on for core costs that we have lost due to being unable to deliver our mobile crèche service.

**DONATE OR DO A FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY** – a small donation or sponsored event can help to raise vital funds. Visit our Virgin Money Giving page to find out more <http://bit.ly/wcidonate>

**SHOP ONLINE via Give as you Live.** Now every time you shop via Give as you Live at 4,000+ top retailers, including eBay, M&S and Expedia, a free donation will be made to us and it won’t cost you a penny extra!

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*“Making life better for children and families in Wythenshawe”*