

Notes on activities

COVID-19 guidance

- Our activities have been designed to encourage intergenerational connections between children and young people and older people living in care homes, even when face-to-face contact isn't possible.
- The latest government guidance regarding COVID-19 should always be adhered to. For more information, please see www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Finding a care home to connect with:

- Some schools may already have a link with a local care home so it's worth asking at your child's school first.
- There may be a care home close to your house, or already known to you, that your child can connect with.
- Use the online directory <https://www.carehome.co.uk/> to search for care homes in your local area.
- If any issues, contact our colleague Amy Lock (amy.lock@thelinkingnetwork.org.uk) who will be able to help connect you with a local care home.
- Before you get started, it's best to telephone the care home and briefly explain which activity/activities your child is planning on doing, so that they are aware.

Safeguarding

- Some activities involve sending written work or pictures to care homes. Please ensure that children and young people do not include personal details or photos of themselves, unless the recipient is a known friend or relative. Full name, address, school, date of birth etc should not be included.
- Do not taken pictures of children without first seeking their permissions and the permissions of their parent/guardian.
 - If you are a school or a youth organisation, you may wish to obtain written consent for photography from the child's parent/guardian.
 - All photographs of children must not identify their home address, unless express consent has been obtained from the child's parent/guardian.
 - Please be mindful of other identifiable features, for example school or club uniforms
 - Please support children and young people to pick an image of themselves that is appropriate, for example avoiding nudity and swimwear.

Safety

- Please ensure all craft items that are stuck down have been secured well, so that they do not become a choking hazard for small children or care home residents.
- Younger children should complete activities under adult supervision and must be assisted when using scissors and other sharp items.
- If a child will be communicating with a specific resident, you could always check with the care home first which materials will be appropriate to use.

Top Tip

- Encourage children to write clearly. Care home residents can sometimes have issues reading very small handwriting, particularly if it is joined up.