

Other fun activities



1. Using a mirror, draw your own self-portrait. Then draw portraits of your family (including any pets you may have). Gather up all your pictures and create a household portrait gallery. Take a look around the National Gallery of Ireland for inspiration: nationalgallery.ie/virtual-tour
2. Sometimes the most interesting and enjoyable stories are the ones people tell us. Ask a grown-up to tell you a story from when they were young. Remember, this can be done over the phone or video conferencing if you can't visit them right now. Write the story down to record it. You could add pictures and show it to them the next time you see them.
3. Getting post is fun! That's how you got this playbook - your local postman or postwoman dropped it through your letterbox. Think of someone you know who would like to receive a letter from you. You could tell them about all the things you have been getting up to since you saw them last.
4. Families come in all shapes and sizes, and we are all sharing space with one another for a lot longer at the moment! Now would be a really great time to explore your family tree. Find out everything you can and map it out.
5. We all live in Ireland, but maybe this is not the country you were born in, maybe some of your family are from a different country, or maybe you have been on holidays elsewhere. It is good to learn about other places in the world. Choose another country and find out everything you can about it: what food they eat, what language they speak, what their national sport, customs, famous landmarks and so on are.
6. At times like this, it seems that lots of people are making lots of speeches. But they are important to make sure we all feel like 'we are in this together', as An Taoiseach said. Can you write a speech about the importance of being 'in this together'?
7. Being at home for a while means you can't see your friends but you can learn new things! What about a new word a day - ask someone to teach you one or use a dictionary? Or maybe someone in the house could help you learn to bake or knit. When you do get to see your friends again, you can impress them with your new skills!
8. Do you want to be a writer or an illustrator when you grow up? Two amazing competitions are on at the moment. One is to design a book cover that will be published on a book in September (for artists aged fifteen-years or under). Closing date 1 May 2020
childrensbooksireland.ie/the-obrien-press-design-a-cover-competition.
9. The other one is a writing competition, where you get to record your very own story in the RTÉ studios (for third- to sixth-class students) Closing date 13 April 2020
rte.ie/culture/books/2020/0218/1116127-we-love-books/
10. We learn a lot about times past from what was left behind. Thousands of years ago, people painted their stories on cave walls. Now, people write letters and emails and diaries. You are living in a really important, unusual moment in time, so why not record it? Keep your own diary, and document everything that is going on. Don't forget to describe how things make you feel - sometimes writing things down makes them easier to understand. Diaries are great sources of social history - in years to come, yours might end up in a museum!
11. If you are looking for great reading suggestions, there are lots of themed book lists, reading guides and reviews to be found on: childrensbooksireland.ie/inis/ and lots of resources to download: childrensbooksireland.ie/resources/
12. If you finish all these activities, remember you can trace some of the elements with tracing paper or baking paper if you have it! This playbook and these pages are all free to download from anpost.com and childrensbooksireland.ie We'd love for you to share your creations, pictures of your posters in windows and your stories using [#ImagineNation](https://twitter.com/ImagineNation). Have fun!