# Changes

Dealing with change can be hard. Some people can easily roll with the punches, others not so much. As adults, we are currently experiencing so much change it all feels so overwhelming, just imagine how our children feel! Some young children may not realize (or even care) they are not in school or can't see their friends, but at the same time, cannot understand *why* they can't go to the park or see close family members. For older children, they may be feeling the loss of fun activities such as sports, going to school and most importantly their social life. Our new normal is a 180 degree turn from the way we were living and can cause feelings of constant worry, exhaustion, sadness, loneliness, anger or panic. One way we can learn to cope with some of these feelings is to understand and realize what is and *isn't* in our control. We cannot control how long the Safe at Home order is in place, but we can control what we do with the time we have.

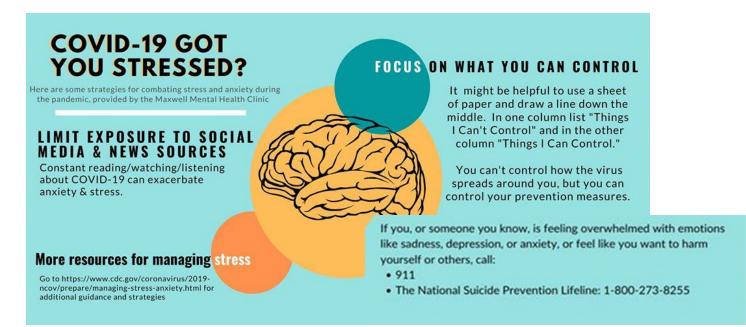


Some ways we can help our children through this major change, and others to come (because life is FULL of changes), are keeping things as much the same as possible such as maintaining

consistent morning and nightime routines and answering any questions they have about what is going on ( see video links below for talking to children about the Coronavirus). Expect some regression in behaviors (they will pass, stay the course) and allow for grieving and practice seeing the current situation in a positive light.



When talking about



the

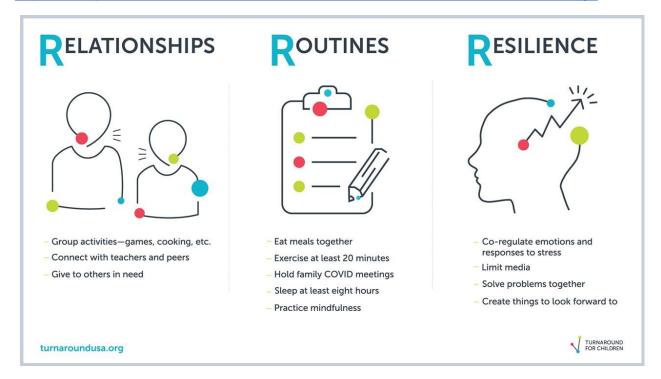
Coronavirus to your child the CDC, Kids health org and many other sources suggest listening to what your child is saying (or what they are not saying), answer their questions age appropriately,

monitor the media intake and where it is coming from, teach children ways they *can* help stop the spread such as hand hygiene, social distancing, covering any coughs or sneezes and lastly, offer comfort, empathy and honesty.



One more EXTREMELY important aspect of helping children (of all ages) in dealing with change is giving them some extra attention. If you have one or multiple children, give them some undivided attention to play a game, bake cookies, play a video game, dance or sing a song. This not only forces you to practice your patience, but also reinforces to your child that although things are rapidly changing your love, care and attention will be a constant.

How to talk to your child about the Corona Virus <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=45&v=WhVad8ToCiU&feature=emb\_logo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=45&v=WhVad8ToCiU&feature=emb\_logo</a>



#### Signs of Anxiety

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubDvUAFD6ps

# Dealing with Change

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqBJhelJaEQ

## **Anxiety**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfSbWc3O\_5M

## **Covid Anxiety**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yQj-Mscn7k



Parents, as we enter the third week of distance learning it is normal to feel as though things will never return to normal. For many, this is a less than ideal situation but hopefully the resources shared with you will make this new reality a bit more bearable. To recap, some ways we can cope with all this change are:

- Understand your own anxiety
- Stay informed (reputable sources and just check-in, don't obsess)
- Focus things you can control
- Stay connected (through phone calls and virtual meetings)
- Take care of body and mind
- Help someone else
- Ask for help (Crisis Hotlines)
  - Disaster Distress Helpline Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.
  - Crisis Text Line Text HOME to 741741 to speak with a trained Crisis Counselor. Also available in the UK and Canada.
  - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline If you're feeling suicidal, please call 1-800-273-TALK (8255).
  - National Domestic Violence Hotline-Isolated at home in an abusive situation and need help? Call 1-800-799-7233.

