Coronavirus
and MeDisabled Children and Young
People "Coronavirus and
me" workshop



Comisiynydd Plant Cymru

Children's Commissioner for Wales

- To share disabled children and young people's responses to the 'Coronavirus and me' survey.
- To enable children and young people to discuss and reflect on their lockdown experiences with professionals in their setting. This includes thinking about new challenges for children and young people.
- To think about what happens next for young people and those that work with them.



Note: This session may involve discussions which bring up difficult experiences and emotions for children and young people. Begin the session with some ground rules for group discussion and share information of local and national services that can support the children and young people you are working with. For more information about support services visit the <u>Children's Commissioner's website</u>. **Differentiated activities**

Additional information/ resources

Introduction:

Introduce the workshop by explaining that you will be focussing on findings from a survey by Sally Holland.

"Sally Holland is the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Sally's job is to make sure you get your children's rights. Children's rights are the things that you need to grow up feeling happy, healthy and safe."

Explain to participants:

"When we all had to stay home, Sally wanted to know how children and young people were feeling. She worked with other organisations to ask questions. The questions were put into a survey. Over 23,000 children and young people answered the survey. More than 1000 of these were disabled children and young people. Today we are going to look at some of the findings about their experiences."

You might want to ask if any of the children or young people in your workshop took part in the survey.

Share key findings:

Using our <u>video and/or our symbol-supported key</u> <u>findings</u>, share the key information with participants.

You could extend this by focussing on a key finding and encouraging children and young people to discuss them in small groups.

Prompt question: "Are you surprised by this finding?" You could use our poster found <u>here</u> to support participants to learn about their rights. Alternatively you could use our <u>happy, healthy and</u> <u>safe poster</u>.

You may wish to use more familiar language, for example children and young people may be more familiar with the term "lockdown". You could use page 5,6 and 7 of our accessible report to support participants understanding.

Main Activity:

Individual reflection

Follow on from the activity by explaining to participants that they will now have the opportunity to think about what the time at home was like for them.

Ask participants to think about two things they liked about being at home and one thing that they didn't like.

Participants could:

- write about their time at home
- draw pictures to represent their ideas
- choose from preselected pictures
- discuss their ideas with a peer/ member of staff
- work as a large group to create a piece of artwork based on their time at home

This activity may take a few sessions to complete. You may wish to use our templates:

Coronavirus and Me - Worksheet

Coronavirus and Me - Talking Mat

Reflection:

Bring participants back together to discuss their ideas. Support participants as they share their answers.

Work as a group to look at the list of things that participants did not enjoy. You may wish to point out things that your setting has done to resolve those issues for children and young people.

Ask participants what could be changed to make the list better?

Decide as a group if there are any actions you would like to take forward.

Children and young people may wish to take these issues forward to their school council or other members of the community. You can use our "<u>Make a Difference</u>" resource to support this.